





AMERICAN FOUNDATION  
FOR THE BLIND INC.









# Light

*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity;  
and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, Inc. - LOS ANGELES

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## TRIBUTE TO THE BLINDED VETERANS

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

The situation in Europe today, and the celebration of Armistice Day November 11, may well serve to remind us of the debt we still owe to those in our nation who in the World War suffered the loss of God's greatest gift to man—physical eyesight.

We human beings are all too prone to forget our responsibilities and obligations to one another. For the first few years following the Armistice, we were sympathetic enough of our war veterans, blinded and otherwise.

But now, after 21 years, do we give any thought to them? Do we know anything about their welfare, where they are and what is being done for them? More than likely the answers to all of these questions would be in the negative. Probably not because of indifference or lack of interest and sympathy, but likely because their loss of eyesight usually isolates them from society. Seeing little or nothing of them, it is easy for us to forget their plight.

To the war-blinded veterans, the public and especially the civilian blind, owe a debt of gratitude that can never be fully liquidated.

After all, perhaps the general public cannot be expected to appreciate or even remember the blinded veterans' contribution to society, but the trained workers in blind welfare work, and especially leaders and officials of blind welfare agencies, private and public, are not excusable if they allow themselves to grow apathetic on the subject.

It was the sight of our blinded soldiers and sailors, coming home from Europe in 1919, and our sympathy for them that aroused this whole nation to a better appreciation of their duty to our civilian blind, some 100,000 in number at that time. Soon our citizens and statesmen began to become "blind conscious," as it were. Enlightened public opinion gradually took on consternation that so little had been done for the civilian adult blind in this country. The realization of this virtually started a revival of interest in behalf of the nation's blind.

When about that time it was discovered that the only Federal appropriation for the education of our blind children of school age was \$10,000 a year, small groups began to be indignant; our Congressmen, embarrassed.

Obviously, this appropriation was not a drop in the bucket when compared with what was needed. Limited as it was to the furnishing of textbooks in raised print and tangible apparatus in the education of the nation's blind of school age, representing scarcely 10 per cent of the total blind population, more than 90,000 of the nation's adult blind received little or no benefit from it.

But when our war-blinded began to return, things began to change. Apathy and indifference weakened. Deferred sympathy manifested and suddenly the nation awoke to the fact that a Federal appropriation of \$10,000 for about 100,000 blinded citizens was little less than disgraceful.

First the Veterans' Bureau sought and obtained several thousand dollars with which to print books in Braille for the war-blinded veterans. Next, the American Red Cross organized volunteer groups to transcribe books by hand. Church organizations likewise formed Braille guilds and auxiliaries for missionary work among the blind generally. At last Congress increased its meager appropriation from \$10,000 a year to \$25,000, then to \$75,000, for the education of the youthful blind.

Much of this reform and advancement for the betterment of the civilian blind may be properly credited indirectly to the veterans blinded in the World War.

Should we not therefore ever remember with reverence those blind veterans? Let us recall what they gave for peace at home and abroad. Theirs was a bigger contribution towards the betterment of world conditions than any sacrifice we can ever make of our material goods, even if we should cast our earthly all into the treasury. Knowing this we

should be inspired to sacrifice, if needs be, a few of our superfluous luxuries in their behalf.

Unlike others who may well point with pride to their benefactions, those dauntless, battle-scarred veterans, martyrs of the first rank, would like to forget the price they paid. The cruel methods of modern warfare exacted from them the toll of physical blindness. Nothing we can do can ever fully compensate them for their loss of the beauty, grandeur and sunshine of this world. But this does not excuse us from doing what we can to lighten their burdens. They cannot see the smile of friendship nor the loving sympathy expressed on your countenance. But there is a *way* whereby you can make them feel your sympathy.

This *way* presents a golden opportunity to help both the blinded veterans of the World War and the nation's civilian blind as well, now approximating 130,000, in their struggle for social security and economic freedom.

That cruel war ended twenty-one years ago. But so far as its blinded veterans are concerned, its Armistice simply ushered in another war—another battle for freedom and independence as disheartening as any ever recorded in history. Again they responded to the service call, with undaunted courage and fortitude. Rehabilitation was then the goal before them. On their banner was emblazoned in letters of living gold, the soul-inspired words, "VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS."

They waited not until they were stronger to combat their formidable foe. They wasted no time in lamentation. To retain their self-respect they must attain their goal in spite of overwhelming odds.

(Please turn to page 23)



## TWO DECADES OF WELFARE SERVICE

Twenty years ago on the 13th of September a gift of \$25,000 from a New England woman, Mary Beecher Longyear, and her husband, made possible the founding of the Universal Braille Press which later was incorporated as the Braille Institute of America.

The gift was in the form of a pledge for five years, given to J. Robert Atkinson on the condition that he would assume all responsibility for the establishment of the institution and for its management.

Although residents of Brookline, Massachusetts at that time, with their interests and investments largely centered in the East, Mr. and Mrs. Longyear specified with their gift that the institution to be founded should be located in California. In so doing, it was their hope and conviction that Californians and those living on the Pacific Coast would respond generously by way of gifts and donations to insure permanent endowments for welfare service to the blind in every walk of life.

Through these twenty years substantial progress has been realized, and while the goal has not yet been reached, the welfare service of the Braille Institute is felt in a wide field of benefaction, consisting in part of the following activities.

**SOCIAL WELFARE:** Work with local blind, and in some cases with the blind in other localities, having to do with personal adjustment problems created by blindness, including the donation of appliances or free services when necessary.

**HOME TEACHING:** Free instruction in reading and writing raised print (Braille and Moon type) and typewriting.

**BUSINESS GUIDANCE:** Consultation and other services, including business loans, to the employable blind and the sponsorship of vocational literature.

**LIBRARY SERVICE:** Free circulation of books in raised print and talking book records to the blind of California and Arizona.

**LITERATURE:** Sponsorship of books and magazines in Braille and Moon types on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay, including the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille.

**RESEARCH:** The development of appliances for the blind; consultation and other services to blind individuals and organizations.

In recognition of the progress realized since its inception, the Braille Institute of America celebrated its twentieth anniversary September 27, 28 and 29. During those three days scores of visitors went through the institution, marveled at the work that was being done and inspected the exhibits.

Thursday, September 28, was Patrons' Day and many of the members and contributors were greeted personally. Mrs. Alice Busby, Director of Braille Transcribers, Los Angeles Chapter, American Red Cross, and members of her group were present in the morning. In the evening, Hon. Frank C. Collier, a member of the board of trustees, spoke informally to the guests.



On Friday, several hundred visitors registered—some coming for the second time. During the afternoon music was furnished by blind artists. Calvin Hendricks, baritone, accompanied himself at the electric organ; and Earl Houk, Adjudicator for the Blind of the County Charities Department, sang a group of numbers, accompanied by Glynn Smith at the piano.

Members of the board of the Nursery School for Visually Handicapped Children, sponsored by the Delta Gamma Alumna, inspected the exhibits and, like many others, personally visited the library, which is now maintained at another address on Vermont Avenue.

In the evening, an informal program was presented by Genevieve Wiley, mezzo soprano, of Pasadena. Miss Wiley played her own accompaniment, and for an encore one of her own compositions. Alfred Kloess, teacher of music in the classes for the sightless in the Los Angeles Public Schools, played a group of piano numbers; and Jim Burns, a student at U.C.L.A., read bits of humor from *The Braille Mirror*.

The exhibit arranged for the celebration was set up chronologically, showing the progressive steps made year by year in broadening and extending the work of the Institute.

#### **1919: Modest Start**

The first step was shown by pictures of the pressroom set up in the garage of Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson on North Hobart Blvd., Los Angeles, and Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, the donors of the first gift in 1919.

#### **1920: Improved Machinery**

The original model of the Atkinson Braille stereotyper, completed in 1920, was exhibited. This ma-

chine seemed very crude in comparison with the present models used, many refinements and improvements being made in the years that followed.

#### **1924: Revised Braille Bible**

In 1924, the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, on one side of the paper, was completed. This was the first complete edition published in Revised Braille, Grade One and a Half, adopted as standard in 1917.

#### **1925: Interpointing Perfected**

At the behest of workers in the field of printing for the blind, the Atkinson model stereotyper was re-designed and developed for interpointing. By this process books may be printed on both sides of the paper at a saving of 40 per cent in cost and volume. This progressive step was completed in 1925, and the



BRaille INSTITUTE PHOTO

**Calvin Hendricks, on the program at the Braille Institute anniversary celebration, while J. Robert Atkinson, managing director, listens approvingly.**



following year the Press printed its first book in this form, "The Dawn of a Tomorrow," by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

### **1926: Magazine**

The year 1926 saw the launching of the Press's monthly magazine, *The Braille Mirror*, devoted to current events and news of general interest.

### **1927: Bible in Interpoint**

The first edition of the King James Version of the Bible in interpoint Braille was finished in 1927. This Bible is now distributed by the Braille Institute at \$1 a volume, and free to those unable to pay.

### **1921-1929: Various Publications**

During the years 1921 to 1929, the Universal Braille Press acted both as publisher of its own books and as a printer for other agencies. There were exhibited books printed for religious organizations, other agencies for the blind and books financed with the Press's funds.

### **1929: Incorporation**

Recognizing the need for an organization with broader aims, the incorporation of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was brought about September 30, 1929, under the laws of the State of California, not for profit.

### **1931: Home Teaching**

The home teaching department was started in 1931. At present there are 30 blind people in Los Angeles and vicinity under instruction in Braille, Moon type, or typewriting, by paid and volunteer teachers. In addition, primers are published for those living where home teachers cannot reach them.

### **1931: Federal Project**

A Federal appropriation, initiated by the Braille Institute in 1929, resulted in the passage of a law in 1931 which made the Library of Congress a publisher of books in raised type. The Braille Insti-

tute's press is one of the four in the United States printing Braille for the government and the only one printing Moon type. Since 1931 over 41,000 volumes have been printed here for the Library of Congress.

### **1932: Library Service**

Serving the blind of California and Arizona, the Braille Institute's library was started in 1932. In 1934 it became a distributing library for the Library of Congress. There are over 8,000 volumes on its shelves, and over 7,000 talking book records. The operating cost of this library is maintained by the Braille Institute.

### **1932: Business Guidance**

Activities having to do with business guidance were started in 1932. Although some local work is done, the major effort is along national lines of an advisory nature and the publication of vocational books, pamphlets, etc.

### **1934: Moon Printing**

Moon type is read by about 10 per cent of the reading blind. In 1934, *New Moon* magazine was launched, the first magazine ever to be published in this type in America. It also became possible to print Moon type books in the United States with the perfection of the Moon stereotype machine.

### **1935: Social Welfare**

The many types of work being done with blind individuals called for the organization of the department of social welfare, along standard lines, in 1935. Over 1,000 blind persons with whom the Braille Institute has been recently active are on file, with about 25 new cases being added monthly.

### **1938: Dictionary in Braille**

Plates for Webster's Students Dictionary in Braille, a joint project in co-operation with the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Ken-



tucky were completed in 1938. It forms 32 Braille volumes with a reference handbook. The Louisville institution will furnish the dictionary to the schools for the blind under a Federal textbook subsidy, while the needs of the individual blind and libraries will be met by the Braille Institute as funds permit.

#### **1939: Braille Writer**

A model of the Braille writer, perfected by the Braille Institute, was displayed during the celebration. The sum of approximately \$1350 is needed to bring the writer to the point of production. Requests are on file from scores of the blind who are eagerly awaiting the manufacture of this writer, which will enable them to correspond with each other, assist the blind student and be an invaluable aid to the blind in business and the professions.

#### **1939: Map of Europe**

Another interesting feature of the display was the map of Europe which supplemented *The Braille Mirror* for September, 1939. One *Mirror* reader re-

ferred to it as a "pearl of a map," and the outlines of the countries do remind one of a string of seed pearls.

Other interesting features of the exhibit included devices and appliances from other agencies, games, etc. The tools and materials used by Mr. Elmer Reavis, a totally blind man of Tujunga, California, who built his home there, were displayed, together with pictures showing Mr. Reavis at work and the stone cottage he built.

A globe developed by the Braille Institute, with the outlines of the countries and coastlines in different sized dots, created much interest.

The interest of the many visitors is typified by the remarks of one lady who asked if there were any more "Long-years" (to give substantial contributions). When told that so far they had not been found, she promised to help locate some, recognizing that such an enterprise could hardly be carried on in any other way than by substantial gifts and endowments.



BRaille INSTITUTE PHOTO

**Braille Transcribers, Los Angeles Chapter, American Red Cross.**



# MUSEUM LECTURES FOR THE BLIND

By CRAIG SCOTT

Models have long been used to give the blind a conception of objects they are unable to see. By such means a full-rigged ship or the Parthenon may be appreciated and understood where before there was only the vaguest concept.

In a few cases, museums have set up exhibits designed especially for the blind. Here objects may be discerned by touch and the explanatory material read in Braille. By setting aside a room for these displays and by changing the exhibits periodically, much of the material in a museum may be displayed.

The Los Angeles Museum, in cooperation with the Braille Institute, recently initiated a course of six lectures for the blind to test the idea of presenting exhibits of various types in such a way that each of those attending would carry away with him a thorough appreciation of the subject. In most cases selected material was taken from its regular display space and the group met where a discussion could be held without interfering with regular museum activities and where the objects could be presented in a convenient manner.

The subjects selected for these lectures were (1) Modern Sculpture; (2) Monumental Sculpture; (3) Greek Vase Shapes; (4) Chinese Ceramics; (5) Primitive Art; (6) Colonial Furniture.

Each lecture attempted to give a broad view of the subject and to awaken, in the minds of those attending, an interest in the principles of art and their application to every-day life. Representative pieces of modern sculp-

ture were used to illustrate the first lecture and to compare the modern with older styles.

Monumental sculpture was illustrated by models of buildings and parts of buildings as well as models of larger sculpture pieces.

Greek vase shapes were studied for lines and a comparison made of the shapes developed in ancient times with those used today. The lecture on Chinese ceramics extended this study and introduced the students to oriental design.

The primitive art objects displayed brought out the application of design by



BRAILLE INSTITUTE PHOTO

Sightless girl examines sculpture at Los Angeles Museum.



primitive man to weapons and household articles and served to complete the brief review of art in the various periods of history.

The last lecture, on colonial furniture, took up the influence of early cabinet makers upon furniture design and included a discussion of early American tableware.

At the end of the series an experimental lecture on textiles was given. This was illustrated by textiles of all types, from grass cloth made in the Belgian Congo to Chinese silks and velvets.

This course of lectures was much appreciated by those who attended and proved the value of the method used.

The presence of the objects discussed gave point to the descriptions in much the same way as motion pictures or lantern slides would to a lecture given to people with sight. Supplementing the lectures were pamphlets in Braille, the text of which gave the historical background and general facts of each subject discussed.

Much credit for the course is due to Mr. Roland McKinney, Director of the Museum and to Miss Katherine Babcock, docent, who arranged the exhibits and gave the lectures. The Braille Institute cooperated by furnishing the transportation to and from the lectures and printing the Braille pamphlets.



BRaille INSTITUTE PHOTO

**Miss Katherine Babcock, right, explains the niceties of a rare vase at a lecture for the blind.**



## BLINDNESS CLASSIFIED

(Reprinted from *Light* for January, 1938)

The word "blindness" has both a literal and a figurative meaning. Figuratively, there is a certain kind of blindness which is demoralizing to society and is more detrimental to the individual than the loss of physical sight. This latter class is referred to in Scripture as, "eyes have they, but they see not." That is why we qualify the word by the term *physical* blindness.

Perhaps another discrimination can be made here to advantage. For centuries past, the restoration of sight to a person blind from birth has been regarded as well nigh impossible. "Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind" is also the dictum of Scripture.

Yet in a broader sense, the restoration of sight is neither as difficult, nor as desirable perhaps as the *overcoming* of blindness, an accomplishment already attained by many blind men and women throughout the world.

Why? Because the *overcoming* of physical blindness involves, to some extent, the *overcoming* of *self*; or the finding of one's true selfhood, and "he who finds himself loses his misery," according to Matthew Arnold, the poet.

The first and most important step in the overcoming of blindness is to regard it merely as a physical handicap instead of an affliction.

The newly-blinded adult, however, seldom attains this point readily. To him blindness is about the worst affliction that could possibly befall him, or anyone else. Instead of merely handicapping him, he feels it is an insurmountable

barrier to future progress—a calamity which will close forever the door of opportunity. At first he is, therefore, usually reluctant to admit the possibility of blindness ever being overcome to the extent of his again finding a place of usefulness in the world. Therefore, to inspire him with a ray of hope that he finally can *overcome* his blindness is sometimes a very difficult task.

Nevertheless, today there are many blind men and women throughout the world who have found, through their own experience, that their blindness is not an affliction. Some of these have reduced it to a 25% handicap, 24% of which they believe exists in the minds of people with normal eyesight who regard blindness as the greatest of all losses.

When we have convinced the public of this fact, a great victory will have been won in the rehabilitation of the blind. Then it will be generally recognized that the blind are entitled to places in our industrial system, our economic, journalistic and dramatic life; and if given an opportunity, under favorable conditions, they can support themselves.

But we should not think to deceive ourselves or others through the adoption of a too optimistic attitude on this subject. Physical blindness is a problem to be dealt with consistently. There are many vocations the blind can follow, and follow well if properly trained, but there are others—too many perhaps—which are wholly beyond their attainment, practicably.

For instance, many of the blind are very proficient in the handicraft arts. Likewise, the professions, wherein the blind may reap largely by *mental* means, are opening to them profitable and practical lines of employment. Indeed, a few here and there are now leading in their professions as doctors, lawyers, musicians, teachers, editors, statesmen and the like. Others are conducting successful business enterprises, and still others are making good in salesmanship, fire and life insurance, real estate and the brokerage business. They may be found in any large municipality.

Within the last few years, two blind men have served in the California State Legislature; two in the Legislature of Texas; two in Tennessee; one in New Hampshire; one in Colorado; and until recently, three in the Congress of the United States. In nearly every instance, these blind statesmen held the respect

of their colleagues and the confidence of their constituents.

But the phenomenal success of these, and many others that might be mentioned, must not cause us to forget, nor to neglect, a large number of others who if given a chance could become just as successful. Nor should we ever be unmindful of a still larger number who for many good reasons must always be dependent upon society for the meager comforts of life.

In other words, the *physically* blind may be rightly divided into two classes: namely, the employable and the unemployable. By this terminology is meant the alert, able-bodied blind who can be rehabilitated for gainful occupations; and those who, because of age, infirmity and other limitations, cannot be expected to fit themselves for any degree of self-support—the vast majority being in this latter class.

## Tired of Giving?

By Edward Markham

“Go break to the hungry sweet Charity’s  
bread,  
For giving is living,” the Angel said.  
“Must I be giving again and again?”  
The weary, wondering question came.  
“No,” said the Angel, piercing me  
through,  
“Just stop—when the Lord stops giving  
to you.”



# THE BLIND IN TIME OF WAR

(Editorial from *The New Beacon*, London)

It is probable that, owing to the inclusion of the blind in all evacuation plans, the general public has received an incorrect impression of the position occupied by them in the community. It is right that the blind who are hampered by age or infirmity or who, for other reasons, are incapable of being usefully employed, should be evacuated, but there are thousands of blind people who by temperament, stamina, general education and specialized training, are capable and willing to take their place amongst the civilian workers whose every effort is required to defeat the forces of aggression. Readers of this journal are familiar with the various forms of skilled service which the blind have been rendering to the public for many years, and they need no reminder of the sterling qualities of a preponderance of blind men and women—their patience, perseverance, thoroughness, industry and stoicism. But the general public, and especially those concerned in the organization of the Home Front, from active defense to the maintenance of trade and commerce, need to be reminded of the characteristics, abilities, and capabilities of the large number of people in their midst who risk being regarded by the ignorant as a mere liability, a sheer dead weight. With their brains and with their hands the blind are able and anxious to render service to the nation, and they await the call.

It is obviously the duty of all voluntary societies and workers for the blind to see that they do not wait too long. This can be done, first by bringing to the attention of all employers of mental or manual labour the special capabilities of the fully trained blind who are now

available for immediate service and devising ways and means by which they can be economically used; secondly, by surveying the whole field of war-time activities in order to ascertain where there is a shortage of the special kinds of labour for which blind people are particularly suited; thirdly, by organizing the selection and training of blind people capable of filling these gaps.

In one direction, at least, the blind will be pre-eminently the most suitable candidates for employment. They, better than all others, can teach the newly blinded, by precept and example, "how to be blind." And unfortunately, there can be little doubt that the calamities of a war of long duration will include a considerable increase in the number of the blind.

An increase in the number of the blind will necessitate an increase in the work of the blind welfare services, and it is probable that the local authorities, who are responsible by law for ensuring the minimum standard of blind welfare, will, through stress of war conditions, be obliged to make more and more use of the voluntary societies and voluntary individual helpers of the field. . . .

The Government's announcement that it will give compensation for personal injury implies that any persons blinded as a result of hostile action will not be personally dependent on charity or public assistance. This pledge leaves voluntary societies and local authorities free to co-operate in developing all means which will enable the blind to help their country in its struggle for international freedom and peace, and which will assist the newly blinded to adapt themselves to circumstances.



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# JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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Fascist Italy plans to use blind men to listen for raiding airplanes in case of war. In experiments blind operators of airplane detecting devices were found to have more sensitive hearing than those with unimpaired eyesight.

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*The New Beacon*, from the National Institute for the Blind, London, tells of Victor Dale, blinded veteran of the Great War. He was “blown up on Vimy Ridge . . . and has not seen since that day.” Sitting in a ringside seat, Dale turned to his daughter as a horse took a fence in the Prince of Wales’ Cup competition at the International Horse Show at Olympia, and said, “That was a fine jump.” His daughter goes on to explain that her father enjoys horse shows tremendously. “By the sound and almost the sense of the atmosphere he can tell whether a horse has jumped well. He can judge a horse, too. In the classes for hacks or hunters, if he gets near enough to hear the horse’s movements, he can say whether it is a good specimen. And by just running his hand down its back he can tell its conformation.”

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In Australia, 30-year-old Alice Bett-ridge, deaf-mute and blind, leads an active life. She is editor of the Braille Australian magazine, professional knitter and typist. She writes all of the leading articles for the magazine.

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The Rev. Sam M. Lawton, Dean of North Greenville Junior College in South

Carolina has been blind since birth. However, he has just received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville, Tenn. From Furman University, Greenville, S. C., he received his Bachelor of Arts degree; from Peabody, his Master’s, and from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky, his Doctor of Theology degree. He has developed a pocket device for recording data so as not to disturb the subject of an interview or a religious service in progress.

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South Dakota’s only blind and deaf person, according to reports from that State, is 24-year-old Winthrop Chapman of Redfield. He plays the piano, is an excellent swimmer and uses the typewriter expertly. Last year Chapman spent six months in Africa, where he lectured on the need and importance of educating the blind and deaf.

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Joseph Valcauda operates the tobacco-candy magazine stand at the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington. It was opened in January, 1938 and it is believed to be the first on naval property, operated under the Act of Congress, Public Number 732, 74th Congress, approved June 20, 1936, “to authorize the operation of stands in federal buildings by blind persons, to enlarge the economic opportunities of the blind.” Mr. Valcauda’s stand was opened with all the pomp and ceremony which usu-



ally attends the christening of a battleship, with Rear Admiral E. B. Fenner officiating. The Navy Yard band played stirring music and several hundred Navy officers, men, shipbuilders and a scattering of women cheered the new project.

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The pet ambitions of blind persons are not unlike those of their sighted friends. Take for instance, Alfred Aldinger of Frankfort, N. Y., blind for the last twenty years. But he has always wanted to ride a fire truck to a fire and operate the siren. In this respect however he is different from most of his brothers with sight. He actually achieved his ambition the other day.

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Radio broadcasting station W6NPX, with Fred Souleles, 21-year-old Los Angeles blind youth as chief operator,

boasts two transmitters and is housed in a trim little bungalow back of his home on West Forty-eighth street.

The walls of the little broadcasting station are papered with postal cards from other "hams" (amateurs) in such far places as Australia, Alaska and Hawaii. One bears a London postmark.

Fred's junior partner, Al Konrad, who has normal eyesight, has worked with him since Grammar school days and used to help build crystal sets.

Radio has engrossed young Souleles since the time he first became a Boy Scout in Troop 112, won the radio merit badge and found the subject too fascinating to give up when his initial goal was reached. During high school days and later at Junior College he pursued his hobby while majoring in philosophy.



LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTO

**Fred Souleles, left, and Al Konrad are expert radio engineers, at station W6NPX.**



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To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

J. ROBERT ATKINSON, EDITOR  
 MARIANNE GARVER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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## Special Announcement

Never have we enjoyed a budget sufficient to meet the needs of those who look to us for help. For example, our budget for the calendar year ending December 31, 1939, aggregated \$94,115. Our income from all sources for the first nine months of the year amounted to only \$37,640.76, as is shown elsewhere in this issue of *Light*; and even when allowing for contributions expected during the next three months, it is almost certain that we will hardly approach the amount estimated as necessary to render the welfare service that should have been rendered this year.

Through the years we have pursued every dignified and legitimate plan conceivable in the endeavor to raise sufficient funds only to fall far short of the desired goal.

This experience has convinced us that fund-raising is a business in itself, one not only indispensable to the private, unendowed welfare agency, but one also which, to be successful, should be conducted by trained workers in that field under the direction of an expert in the field of investment.

Therefore, after thoughtful consideration, a plan was evolved by our Board

of Trustees for the employment of the Ivan A. Thorson Organization, Inc., real estate appraisers and analysts and tax consultants, to conduct a fund-raising campaign for the Institute under the terms, conditions and provisions of Los Angeles Municipal Code Ordinance No. 77,000, Chapter IV, Article 4, relating to solicitation for charitable purposes in the City of Los Angeles.

The Thorson Organization is located at 724 South Spring Street, which is also the business address of the assistant treasurer of the Braille Institute. All contributions solicited by the Thorson Organization are to be made payable to the Treasurer, Braille Institute of America, Inc., at that address.

Meanwhile, the Braille Institute will, from its headquarters at 741 No. Vermont Avenue, pursue its regular established method and procedure of solicitation and appeal for contributions and memberships.

## Audit Report

At the annual meeting in March, an amendment to the by-laws was presented and approved whereby our fiscal year was changed so as to close on September 30 instead of December 31. By this action, the next regular meeting of members will not be held until November, 1940 and the trustees elected at the March meeting will hold office until that time.

We are, therefore, beginning a new fiscal year this month, the twenty-first in our history of welfare service to the blind. This change necessitated a certified audit for the nine months ending September 30, which has been completed.

Among other things the audit shows that during the nine months from January 1 to September 30, 1939 the Institute's income from all sources aggregated



\$37,640.76, the disbursements \$40,799.02, showing an operating loss for the period of \$3,158.26, as a direct result of welfare service which had been undertaken and could not be suspended, nor even curtailed, due to certain obligations assumed.

These disbursements consisted of the following: home teaching, \$791.00; free lending library, \$4,410.27; literature distributed, \$3,311.57; business placement and guidance, \$729.57; social welfare, \$10,101.51; cost of books and periodicals sold and circulated, \$21,455.10.

The above figures cover only the minimum of service which the Braille Institute of America *must* maintain in order to justify its existence. By no means do they indicate the maximum service which the Institute feels obligated to render in the fulfillment of its objective, and which is not being rendered by any other agency, public or private.

### **Retrenchment**

Due entirely to financial conditions, *New Moon*, our monthly magazine in Moon type, was definitely suspended with the publication of the November number. The possibility of such action was announced in the July issue of that magazine.

Deeply do our readers regret this suspension, as do we, but the application of rigid economy in the administration of all our welfare service to the blind compelled the decision. Without a balanced budget from year to year, no welfare institution can continue indefinitely to survive, or even weather the storm.

We have done very well in this direction, however, for never has our welfare budget been balanced since the sponsorship of our present activities. But now, as we enter the twenty-first year of this service, with an operating deficit of

\$3,158.26 for the nine months ending September 30, retrenchment somewhere **must** be practiced until we can overcome these odds and accumulate a reserve as well.

*New Moon* was the first magazine ever published in Moon type in America. It was first launched in January, 1934, following the publication of two preliminary numbers in June and December of the previous year. Issued to the blind at a special subscription rate of less than half its production cost, a deficit has arisen each year from its publication. During these years our income from voluntary contributions for its support made it possible to carry this deficit as the Institute's contribution to the social and literary welfare of the blind. But we are not now so favored.

The Moon type was designed by Dr. William Moon of Brighton, England, in 1847. It is especially dedicated to the elderly and infirm blind who find the Braille system too difficult and sometimes wholly beyond their mastery. The Moon type, based upon the Roman alphabet, simplified, comes easily within the grasp of the eldest person, some of whom master it very quickly.

There are now about 1500 persons in the United States who depend upon the Moon type for their literature. Among these are many deaf-blind, who have no other means of keeping in contact with the outside world, so near to them and yet so far removed because of their double handicap. To them the radio is silent. Many of them live under conditions little short of abject poverty, save for the meagre aid received from local charitable organizations. Few, if any, could pay the full cost of the magazine in Moon type, were we to continue it.

(Please turn to page 21)



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## INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

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*The Blind Art Shop, Larchmont, N.Y.* This shop was established by the Lions Club of Larchmont in July, 1932 for the purpose of providing employment for a number of blind workers capable of learning various types of chair re-seating, the making of foot stools, baskets, leather goods, etc. Such work as re-upholstering, refinishing and repairing is being done by sighted help working in conjunction with the sightless. An artists bureau has been established to assist blind performers in obtaining professional engagements without cost.

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*Institution for the Chinese Blind, Shanghai.* On account of the hostilities during the past two years, this Institution has gone through serious difficulties. It was necessary to evacuate suddenly, but all the children were gotten to places of safety. On returning a month or so later, a great deal of the furniture and equipment which it had been necessary to leave, had been damaged or removed. Thirty-five shells had torn great holes in the roof and walls. Two bombs had exploded near two buildings, shattering all windows and peppering the walls with shrapnel. Fifty other shells had formed craters in the grounds. Mr. George B. Fryer, superintendent, reports that "American friends were as usual very generous" and all the buildings have been repaired and are now ready for occupation. Equipment is being replaced as it is needed.

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*New York Association for the Blind, New York City.* The Lighthouse Little Theatre entertained with a Festival of

Music under the sponsorship of the Association recently. Thirty-one blind musicians presented a program of music designed to appeal to the taste of music-lovers from symphony to swing. The audience was made up of more than 300 sightless men and women invited from all parts of New York City who have a special interest in musical activities at the Lighthouse. Edward Grasse, well-known violinist, organist and composer, played Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor. Ruth Welles, blind soprano, sang two Arias from the operas of Bizet. The Lighthouse Choral Society sang "As Torrents in Summer" by Elgar, "Happy and Light of Heart" by Balfe, and "My Shadow," by Hadley. The Lighthouse Swing Band introduced the modern swing motif with a medley of popular numbers. There were several other selections featuring piano and vocal numbers and the Lighthouse String Trio.

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*Pennsylvania Federation for the Blind.* With a membership of 4,400 this organization claims to be "the largest organization of the blind in the world." It is organized to aid in the promotion and perpetuation of impartial legislation that is favorable to the blind, among other things. A committee on national activities has been appointed recently with Robert Brown, 239 Stonycreek Street, Johnstown, as chairman. For some time the Federation has published in ink print a paper called "We the Blind." An extract from an article by Oscar Gibson, a member of the national activities committee, in a recent issue, says: "Inter-



state cooperation on the part of our sightless people is imperative, for no individual state can secure national legislation which would be equitable to pensioners in all states of the union. Organizations within the several states must adopt and follow a specific plan. They must submit proposals uniform in character, and must also acquaint their Senators and Representatives with the limitations imposed by the Social Security Act in its provisions applicable to the blind."

*The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, New York City.* Sixty-six boys and fifty-one girls were enrolled for the second season of Camp Wapanacki, Hardwick, Vermont. In addition to New York Institute, the Maryland School for the Blind and the State School at Batavia, New York, were represented. . . . The Institute exhibit at the New York World's Fair acquainted thousands of visitors with recent developments in the education of the blind and in the prevention of blindness. It is estimated that approximately two million people visited the exhibit booth. . . . A second faculty unit for married teachers has been opened for use. There are quarters for six families. . . . Scholarship students in the Department of the Handicapped at Teachers College, Columbia University, are in residence at the Institute from Argentina, India, Hawaii, Egypt, and Porto Rico.

*Wisconsin School for the Blind, Janesville.* After having been under the direction of the State Board of Control since 1891, the Wisconsin School for the Blind has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the State Department of Public Instruction by a special act of the legislature which was passed without a dissent-

ing vote. Mr. F. M. Longanecker is superintendent.

*Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind, Inc.* For the past two years this Association has presented a monthly broadcast over one of the local stations. A recent program presented Francis Afflick, graduate student at Syracuse University. He received the only scholarship given in psychology at Syracuse this year where he is now studying for his Master's degree. . . . Some of the Association's activities include chair caning, rug weaving, hand and machine sewing, leather goods, metal work and tennis racket re-stringing.

*Topeka Provident Association, Department for the Blind, Topeka, Kansas.* The Topeka Braille Club officially launched its Fall and Winter activities at the September 8th meeting. Meetings **will be held every two weeks** during the winter. The Braille Club is sponsored by this Department but is governed by its membership, consisting of approximately twenty persons, both blind and sighted. Meetings are held at the Y. W. C. A. After the regular business is conducted, the remainder of the time is devoted to literary activity. Book reviews are assigned to and given by members. These reviews are followed by lively discussions and many questions. The purpose of the club is to provide educational and recreational activity. Nothing about its organization or function indicates that it is a club conducted particularly for visually handicapped persons. The members without sight use Braille literature for their reading. The club is a year and a half old, however it still retains its original interest and enthusiasm.



# TEACHERS FOR THE BLIND

## Volunteers

For some years the Braille Institute has maintained a registry of those persons who wish to help the blind in such ways as by reading to them, taking them for walks and writing letters. This work, which requires no preparation, has value but the need for it is limited to a relatively few blind persons. There is greater need for trained volunteers as home teachers and visitors, volunteers whose knowledge of blindness and work for the blind is such that they can help in overcoming the many problems that present themselves to the blind.

With this in mind the Braille Institute, in November, 1938, began a training course for volunteers designed to equip them as home teachers. Lectures and discussions covering the many subjects necessary for home teachers to know were laid out and field trips to other organizations doing work for the blind were arranged. Specialists in certain branches of social work and work for the blind were asked to speak to the group in training.

In all, twenty meetings or field trips were held and at the end of the course assignments of pupils were made to those who had completed the study. Of the six who began, four completed the course and of these two remain, the others having found it necessary to suspend their activity for various reasons.

A second group of volunteers began instruction early in 1939 and a third group has now been started. There are at present four Braille Institute volunteers in the Los Angeles area and one in the San Bernardino area, each well

equipped not only to teach Braille and Moon types but to act as a volunteer social worker in the homes of the blind.

## Self-Instruction

The Braille Institute's self-instruction course in Braille reading, designed especially for the blind and members of their families, living in rural or remote districts, is completed. This course should be of tremendous value, also, to home teachers who are called upon to teach the blind in such districts and who, because of distance and other limitations, find it impossible to visit their pupils often, if at all.

The course consists of three primers. The first, a primary course taking the pupil through Grade One. This primer includes a section of instructions in ink-print showing clearly how sighted members of the family, or friends, can assist the blind pupil in its mastery.

The second course takes the pupil through Grade One and a Half. It is purely self-instructive, all the explanatory material being printed in Grade One. Thus the pupil, having already mastered the Grade One Primer, can teach himself the Grade One and a Half code.

The third and final course prepares the pupil to read Grade Two, the most highly contracted code in common use, the instructions, tables and drills being printed in Grade One and a Half.

The price of the complete course, in three primers, bound in pamphlet form, is \$1.50. The primers may be purchased separately as needed, at fifty cents each, plus postage.



## EDITORIALS

(Continued from page 17)

To deprive them of this means of enlightenment and entertainment is to us little less than pathetic, if not an actual indictment of failure to succeed with what we have undertaken in their behalf.

As an alternative, we feel the endeavor should be made as soon as possible to resume publication of *New Moon* magazine as a *free* publication. As such it could be mailed to all readers *free* of postage by special Act of Congress.

A contribution of \$5,000 would be sufficient to furnish the magazine *free* to some 1200 or 1500 readers. We can think of no single charity, productive of more good than a contribution or contributions to this end.

**Resources**

Again it seems necessary to repeat that the Braille Institute does not receive help from the Community Chest, nor from any governmental agency for relief to the needy blind. Its only resources are the voluntary contributions of the public, membership dues, gifts and bequests.

Although eligible for assistance from the Chest, the extent of this aid, the Institute has been informed, would amount to a hindrance instead of a help. This is partially because the *local* service sponsored by the Braille Institute is much broader than city-wide.

The Braille Institute is the only institution of its kind west of the Mississippi River. In the East the needs of the blind are very well supplied by efficiently equipped, permanently endowed private institutions. All are invited to help make of the Braille Institute a similar agency here in the West, where its service has long been needed.

This fact was recognized by Mr. and Mrs. Longyear at the time they made

possible its founding, as reported elsewhere in this issue. Although residents of Brookline, Massachusetts at that time, with their interests and investments largely centered in the East, they specified with their gift that the institution to be founded should be located in California.

As we begin our twenty-first year in the field of welfare service, we find the appeals from the blind for assistance far exceed our ability to respond. Thousands of the nation's 130,000 blind are not eligible to receive government aid. They must, therefore look to private agencies such as the Braille Institute for help.

Having no permanent endowments and with no governmental aid, the service we are able to render depends upon the support received from the public, both moral and financial; morally, by subscribing for memberships in the Braille Institute, such memberships ranging from \$5.00 to \$100.00 a year, with Life Membership at \$1,000. Financially, by contributing from time to time and in such amounts as the public may find possible.

**New Dress**

With this issue of *Light* we inaugurate a new format and new folio number to run according to our fiscal year, rather than the calendar year, as heretofore.

As the Braille Institute enters its twenty-first year of welfare service to the blind, *Light* enters its twelfth year as a publication "to acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution."

The new dress, as it were, uses more prominently the emblem of the Braille Institute and at the same time gives four additional pages for the material presented.

(Please turn to next page)

It is hoped our readers will approve the change which we believe marks a progressive step in the history of the publication.

### Light on Request

In the past it has been our custom to send *Light* free to institutions and libraries, private and public, and to state commissions for the blind which do not subscribe for it at the regular rate charged.

We will be glad to continue this practice for a limited time at least *to those interested in receiving it*. But it seems well to ask those who wish to be kept on the mailing list to write us making that request.

### Collective Giving

On November 7, an initiative special election was held in California by which the petitioners hoped to pass an amendment to the Constitution making mandatory the payment of \$30 every Thursday to all persons over fifty years of age who retire from employment or as employers.

Advocates of the measure contributed at least \$560,000 in support of its passage. This fund was raised by appeals urging thirty cents a week. Of course, it is very likely that many contributed much more than this. Obviously, they did it because they sincerely believed the amendment was in their own self-interest, as well as the interest of others. The point is, they believed they were helping themselves.

If only the private welfare agency could convince all in every walk of life

that contributions of thirty cents a week towards blind welfare would be to their own self-interest, literally thousands of dollars could be raised for blind welfare work without a burden to anyone.

For a long time we've had in mind launching a campaign for funds with the slogan "A penny a day drives darkness away."

How about laying aside a penny a day, \$3.65 a year, for the Braille Institute's welfare fund, sending it to us monthly, quarterly or in semi-annual installments? At the end of the year, the Institute would issue a receipt and a report as to what *your support* had *helped* it to do in the blind welfare work.

## ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

**BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA,  
INC.**

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing).....	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb. 9 x 11.....	.12
5 lbs.....	.50
Braille Paper, per lb. 9 x 12.....	.15
5 lbs.....	.65
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille).....	.05
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured  
on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking.....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men.....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus.....	2.00
Hill String Lineguide (for longhand writing).....	2.50



## TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

(Continued from page 4)

So, with self-determination and pluck instead of physical eyes, those blinded warriors pushed onward and are still pushing onward, exercising every ounce of energy within, taxing every talent to the limit to free themselves through rehabilitation from the stigma of blindness imposed upon them in that cruel and barbarous war.

In 1920, I visited the Red Cross Hospital at Evergreen in the suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland, where some of this rehabilitation was going on under the auspices of the Federal government. I never expect to witness a more touching scene. It would have required a strong character indeed to suppress the tears when seeing something like 200 of those courageous young men, the very cream of the nation's manhood, stricken with blindness, learning to find their way in the dark, and that too, without physical eyes to aid them. Indeed, with them rested the burden of proof that physical eyes, or the loss of them, could neither make nor ruin a man.

But to linger there with them just for a little while meant the conviction that they would succeed. It meant also the abandonment of every emotion suggestive of the pathetic. An atmosphere of hope and cheerfulness permeated the big dining room as they responded to the dinner call, each finding his place unassisted, with ease and directness. Armed with the never-failing weapons of self-abnegation, self-determination, patience and perseverance, they were then and still are winning their battle of rehabilitation.

This battle means learning how to see without eyes, how to do without some

prized possession or faculty, how to do one's work in the dark.

For an inspiring and interesting story of how England's war-blinded veterans were successfully rehabilitated, read "*Victory Over Blindness*," by Sir Arthur Pearson, published by George H. Doran and Company and available in most public libraries.

## Harry W. Brintnall Co.

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Machinery and Supplies*

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## "Help the Blind to Help Themselves"

*Brooms . Brushes . Mops . Rugs  
Baskets . Hand-Made Articles  
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## BLIND-MADE PRODUCTS OF CALIFORNIA

351 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES

FRANK W. FERRARA  
MANAGER

PHONE  
FEDERAL 7977



## FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

## FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

## CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of.....(or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of  
 ....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the <sup>testator</sup>testatrix as and for a Codicil to <sup>his</sup>her last Will dated.....

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at <sup>his</sup>her request and in <sup>his</sup>her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....



# HISTORY

The Braille Institute of America, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the nation's blind. Chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille System, and with its headquarters in Los Angeles, it stands on the Pacific Coast as a memorial to that blind benefactor, Louis Braille, whose ingenuity made truly practical the publication of literature of all kinds in raised print for the blind.

The origin of the Braille Institute dates back to 1919, when an unincorporated, philanthropic institution known as "Universal Braille Press," devoted exclusively to the literary welfare of the blind through the printing of good literature of all kinds in Braille, was established in Los Angeles, California.

Its founding by J. Robert Atkinson was made possible through the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, who on September 13, 1919, pledged a sum of \$25,000 for the purpose, payable \$5,000 a year. The pledge was made on the condition that Mr. Atkinson would assume full responsibility for the establishment and management of such an institution; and in order that he might devote his entire time to the project, the gift included a salary stipulation for the five years. All the conditions of this benevolent contract were faithfully fulfilled.

Between the years 1912 and 1919, Mr. Atkinson had demonstrated his fitness to establish a printing plant for the blind by transcribing into Braille by hand a unique library of scientific work, consisting of more than 960,000 words, bound in 16 large Braille volumes, prepared for his own use. It was this accomplishment that inspired Mr. and Mrs. Longyear spon-

tanecously to offer financial assistance.

Soon the benevolence of this newly founded publishing plant was felt by the blind of the nation and to some extent the literary service rendered by it benefited many of the English-reading blind of other nations. Gradually, the demands for social and economic welfare service brought the conviction that an institution founded on broader principles was the need, and to accomplish this the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered on September 30, 1929.

Governed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, and established to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, the Braille Institute ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

Since September 1919, therefore, the Braille Institute and the forces which gave rise to its incorporation have been rendering social and economic welfare service to the adult blind in California and the nation to the extent funds permitted; and its literary service has enriched the English-reading blind of the world.

In recognition of this, the work of the Braille Institute was given generous space by Rockwell D. Hunt, A.M., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School, University of Southern California, in his elaborate work, "California and Californians," published in 1932. Perhaps more gratifying still is the fact that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., has merited recognition as a national agency in work for the blind by the editors of the Social Work Year Book of the Russell Sage Foundation.



# SPECIAL NEEDS

**BRaille WRITERS:**—Funds in the amount of \$5,500 are urgently needed to complete the dies and jigs necessary to produce the Braille Institute's writer, and to finance the manufacture of the first 100 machines.

Two models of this Braille writer have been perfected — a semi-noiseless portable model for the blind business man and woman and for use in the classroom; and a standard model for use of volunteers of The American National Red Cross and others who transcribe literature by hand, the demand for which is too limited for press production.

From May 1933 to September 1, 1939, \$8,462.08 had been expended in the development of these writers. Since May 1, 1939, all work has been suspended, for lack of funds. It is estimated that \$1,500 will be sufficient to complete the dies and jigs yet to be made. Estimates of the cost of the first 100 writers to be manufactured approximate \$4,000. The writers will be marketed to the blind at the production cost.

**WEBSTER'S STUDENTS DICTIONARY:**—Fifty-seven thousand words defined in self-pronouncing Braille. The work forms 32 large volumes, 11 x 11 inches, three inches thick. Cost of the plates and first edition, \$96 per set, which is the price charged to institutions, libraries, etc., private or public.

The special price to the blind is now \$40, postpaid. This differential of \$56 per set is possible and can be maintained only by gifts and contributions for the purpose. An additional gift of \$30 will furnish a sectional bookcase, specially designed, to shelve the work compactly and conveniently for ready reference and use in the home or office.

**MAGAZINE IN MOON TYPE:**—A contribution of \$5,000 will make it possible to distribute this magazine **free** to more than one thousand readers. Here's an opportunity for some philanthropist to visit the homes of these blind persons twelve times a year, carrying to them a review of current events and world affairs, short stories, the latest political events, articles on science, travel, exploration, etc. For further information about the Moon magazine see page 17 of this issue.

.....  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles.

- I am glad to send my contribution for \$.....
- ☐ to help with the Braille writer.
  - ☐ to help with the dictionary project.
  - ☐ to help with the Moon magazine.

Name.....

Address..... City.....

Date.....



# Light

*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, Inc. • LOS ANGELES

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Vol. XII, No. 2

January, 1940



## AND THEY SAID HE COULD NEVER HOPE TO PREACH

By JAMES H. COLLINS

SOMEHOW, whenever there are students to graduate from Oklahoma colleges, and in states roundabout, the affair doesn't seem complete unless they have the Reverend Willmoore Kendall as baccalaureate preacher and graduation speaker.

Likewise, he is in constant demand among Oklahoma civic organizations, and has more calls than his regular pastorate allows him to accept.

Willmoore Kendall is blind, and has been since early boyhood.

Really, he was born a "hillbilly," in the Kentucky mountains, twenty-five miles from a railroad. That was in 1887, and during his first eight days of life his mother noticed that her baby had an eye inflammation, which grew worse. It took twelve hours to reach the railroad, and not until he was two months old was his trouble diagnosed by doctors in Cincinnati. Sight had then disappeared except a faint impression of light and color in one eye.

He was placed, at five, in the Ken-

tucky School for the Blind, at Louisville, and when he was ten, and his parents moved to what was then Indian Territory, he went to the Texas School for the Blind, at Austin.

At sixteen, ready for college, he attended the small Methodist school called Hargrove College, in Indian Territory, where he had good instruction in Latin, Greek and history.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South licensed him to preach at sixteen, and he wanted to follow that calling, but church leaders maintained that he could never hope to find a regular pastorate, and advised him to try evangelistic work. So, in 1905, he went to Moody Bible Institute, in Chicago, found the teaching dogmatic, began active evangelistic work, and resolved to follow his original ambition.

Entering Northwestern University, at Evanston, outside Chicago, he paid his way at Garrett Biblical Institute, its school of theology, by preaching in



Chicago churches as opportunities offered, and by typing theses for fellow students.

Word of his success going back to Oklahoma, he was encouraged to return and try a pastorate, and he did—with a wife. For in Chicago he had fallen in love with Pearl Garlick, a high school girl who helped him by reading.

They were both twenty.

And lived happily ever after, starting with a five-hundred-dollar salary at his first church, in a parsonage with kerosene lamps, water carried from a neighbor's well, and all the modern inconveniences.

But they were happy beyond words, and in a year he was called to a better-paid pulpit.

\* \* \*

And so, for thirty-one years, Willmoore Kendall has been an Oklahoma minister, except during two years when he went back to Northwestern, 1910-12, to complete work for his theological degree, paid for by serving a small Chicago church.

At present, he is minister of the First Methodist Church South, in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

This is the home of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, with over 5,000 students, and nearly 300 teachers, and his ministry includes large student and faculty audiences, and crowded morning and evening services every Sunday.

For many years, he has specialized in presenting Sunday evening studies of widely-read books in both the fiction and non-fiction fields, and this necessitates a great deal of reading. He averages never less than three hundred Braille volumes yearly, and Mrs. Kendall reads to him the printed books

needed in preparing his talks on literature.

"I greatly enjoy reading for myself in tangible type," he says, "and keep up with all the worth-while English language periodicals, including those from beyond the Atlantic. But I think I shall never learn to like the 'talking book.' I have never had a secretary, and so have always typed all my own correspondence."

The Kendalls have three children, and if one is favored more than



WILLMOORE KENDALL

another, they would "brag" about the oldest, Willmoore Kendall, Jr., born in 1909.

At four years of age, he read with ease, at thirteen had finished high school and entered Northwestern in knee trousers, and after getting his M.A. there, spent three years at Oxford, England, as a Rhodes scholar. He is now a teacher in the department of government at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

(Continued to Page 18)



# GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

NOT LONG AGO the editor made a business trip into the great Imperial Valley of California. When first he visited this Valley in 1911, he was still blessed with physical sight. When next he returned to it, he had lost that blessing.

Although that was about 28 years ago, he still has a few friends there who knew him before the loss of sight and who sympathized with him afterwards in the days when genuine sympathy was much needed to counteract the evils of false pity.

To those friends, as to himself, blindness was perhaps the worst affliction that could possibly befall a human being. At any rate, one which would always draw too much sentimental sympathy and too much pity of the quicksand variety which the blind, when their rehabilitation begins, find it difficult to counteract; but which they soon realize must be counteracted if they are successfully to overcome their handicap.

Many are the well meaning people who want to help the blind. They are generous, kind, sympathetic; but usually, too sentimental. This likely explains one reason why the public generally are so frequently swept off their feet in recent years by the advent of dogs trained to lead the blind. It is quite natural for human beings to become attached to dogs. Many books have been and might still be written devoted to that faithful animal and to his heroic deeds and faithful devotion to men, women and children in times of great need. It is, therefore, easy to understand why so many persons are

lead to believe that guide dogs for the blind are their greatest need and therefore the greatest of all gifts.

Too often, sentimental appeals made by the press, the radio, and speakers encourage the public unduly in this direction. Out of their love for the dog and their sentimental sympathy for the blind, they often lose sight of the things which the average blind person needs much worse than a dog, such as rehabilitation that will help him to become self-supporting; encouragement for employment after he has been rehabilitated; and in too many instances the need of those simple yet natural things necessary to make life endurable and comfortable.

The ability and heroism of these so-called guide dogs are so exaggerated by the press, radio and paid publicists as to deceive the very elect—yes, even to the point that beyond saving the lives of the blind on land or sea, in fire, earthquake and disaster, they can almost earn a living for themselves and their masters. Listen to this as sustaining evidence of this claim.

On December 8, 1939, a fire broke out in the State Industrial Workshop for the Blind in Los Angeles. Newspaper headlines flashed the word that the 45 blind employees were lead safely from the building by their "seeing eye" dogs. One radio broadcast this number as 82. The fact was that of the employees at work at the time all were saved, but only two were lead from the building by dogs.

Indeed, public consciousness seems now so permeated with or obsessed by the thought of guide dogs for the blind



that this is the chief topic of conversation wherever blindness is discussed by the layman. It is often the first thing mentioned by the sighted when meeting a blind person.

This fact was driven home to the editor more forcibly than ever during the visit to his former home in Imperial Valley. One dear woman, who knew him well both in his sighted days and through the days of his rehabilitation over blindness, almost wept because she couldn't purchase hundreds of those wonderful dogs and give them to the blind. There had been a time when she could have done this but like many others she had in recent years suffered financial reversals that dissipated her income to the point where she is no longer able to give liberally to the poor and the physically handicapped, as she was wont to do.

"Of course," she said enthusiastically, "you have one of those wonderful dogs at home." Unusual surprise was manifested when she was informed that he did not. This surprise, however, vanished when she was reminded that within less than one year after he had lost his sight at the age of 25, he was negotiating the streets of that city of about 12,000 population independently with only the use of a cane. By observation and experience she knew this.

She knew also that within three years after losing his sight the editor made his permanent home in Los Angeles, soon negotiating its streets with almost the same freedom and independence as in the Valley city. During later years she knew that he had made transcontinental trips alone without a dog but, of course, not without the help of fellow passengers and trainmen, and red caps, but perhaps no more so than

the sighted traveller. Then she realized clearly that there are many other things which are needed by the blind more than dogs.

There are times and conditions where guide dogs for the blind may be a godsend. But the service is one that must be tempered with sanity. By no means can all the blind use dogs. By no means do all of the blind want dogs. By no means are all who want dogs able to care for them properly, did they have them. Lovers of the faithful animal should consider this angle, if they would be humane. They should consider also that the training of a dog to lead a blind person and the use of it for that purpose is not even a dog's life.

Of all the dog owners who have visited the Braille Institute, we can recall only three who have used their dogs independently of human guides. On the other hand, several there are who have visited the Braille Institute with a human guide to assist them and their dogs in finding the way.

Contrasted to this, scores of blind persons have visited the Institute, alone and unassisted except by a cane. Many of these did not even have white canes tipped with red, which now under California law gives them the right-of-way on the streets.

Only recently an ardent advocate of guide dogs, himself an owner of one, frankly admitted that guide dogs were not practicable in the business world. "I've tried it and always by the time I reach my business appointment I'm either too much out of breath or too warm keeping up with my dog or trying to hold him back to be in any fit shape or comfortable condition for a business interview."

On one occasion this man found it necessary to have a friend take him



and his dog home from a business engagement when through misunderstanding his motor car did not return for him at the expected time.

In the final analysis guide dogs for the blind are a luxury—a costly guide when all facts concerning their breeding, training and the training of the blind to use them are considered. This observation is not meant to deprive a few blind persons here and there of the use of guide dogs. Nor is it meant to discourage the furnishing of guide dogs where they are needed. It is meant merely to present the subject in a way that will prevent its abuse and at the same time curb somewhat the sentimental sympathy which too often misleads well-meaning people to do what they would not do otherwise.

The estimated cost of breeding and training a guide dog and a blind person to use one is declared to be about \$1,000. The life of such a dog is said to be only seven years. The best authority in this nation on this subject states that only one blind person out of ten can be trained to use these dogs successfully.

On this basis it should cost \$13,000,000.00 every seven years to furnish dogs to the estimated 13,000 blind persons who can use them successfully, provided all of them wanted dogs. A tremendous sum; a very substantial endowment which if available for other purposes would mean economic freedom and a higher standard of living for thousands of the nation's blind.

Now let's look at blind welfare in another way. Under the Randolph-Sheppard Law the blind may now operate vending stands in Federal buildings. Some states have passed similar legislation for such stands in state, county and city buildings. The busi-

ness can be developed profitably, as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind has demonstrated.

The initial cost of installing and stocking such stands may likely average \$1.000 each. But they offer



*Charles Brown, with his Seeing-Eye dog, calls at the Braille Institute.*

economic security, independence and self-support to the operators, thereby taking them off relief rolls.

Suppose some of this \$13,000,000.00 were invested in this way? How much better it would be for the able-bodied

*(Continued to Page 19)*



# THE PIG STYLE—"A Penny a Day for the Blind"

By EDITH WAKEMAN HUGHES

"HOW did it evolve?" Well, around a rather circuitous train of associative memory.

During the Great War, of over 20 years ago, I had learned to knit and so eager to keep up with my quota that I even knitted in the dark at the movies. After the Armistice, we laid away our yarns and needles.

The past year has been a long one for me (with not being able to read or write), and after the many years of typing, my hands were getting nervously restless and I decided to experiment with "knitting in the dark once more."

Last Thanksgiving afternoon, I was knitting and listening to radio programs. Four of these had tragedies of the blind; and two of them concluded with alluding to Abraham Lincoln's

philosophy of "New Light," and I hoped some one would quote his magnificent:

"Out of the depths  
Fresh Strength—  
Out of the dark  
New Light—  
And even in the gloom  
We are on the way."

And then the mental train started on its tour:

Eye Ailments—

The "Sty" . . . . But what about the Pig Sty—(A pen where animals are sheltered).

What connection in this?

Whatever or whoever started "THE BLIND PIG" . . . .

And Mother Goose's: "Piggy won't go over the stile (S-T-I-L-E) and I won't get home tonight" — and not spelled *style*.

NOW, where am I?

I was getting as befogged as "Piggy."



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Mrs. Vivian Dantorth of Evanston, Illinois, with her friend, Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, right, adds a coin to the wishing candle, while Mrs. Hughes feeds one of the Mexican pigs its daily ration during a visit at the Braille Institute. On Christmas Eve, Mrs. Hughes "wished" for the wishing candle, which had stood many months at the Beachcomber's in Hollywood. Don, the Beachcomber, granted the wish and the coin-laden candle was in turn given to the Braille Institute for the Blind

—Len Weissman Photo





STY . . . . . PIG STY?  
BLIND PIG . . . . . STILE?  
PIG STYLE?  
PIG PEN?  
PIGGY'S PENNY!

and then

—THE MEXICAN PIG BANK—

And I know this came from a paragraph, which was read to me, from the October issue of *Light*, published by The Braille Institute, in which the editor, Mr. Atkinson, expressed an urge to form a plan for A PENNY A DAY.

\* \* \*

The morning after Thanksgiving, I decided to fulfill Mr. Atkinson's wish by a "Try-out" among my own personal annual greeting exchange over the United States, with my holiday mes-

sage attached to the tail of a Mexican pig bank (sized to hold 365 pennies), while around his neck he would wear a card which would say:

"A PENNY A DAY DRIVES  
DARKNESS AWAY"

and on the card, a Lincoln penny for the extra day of 1940.

The enthusiastic response of telegrams, checks and letters within one week has far exceeded my expectations. Several friends write: "I am sending my "three-sixty-five" now, as I wish to keep the pig for my used razor blades."

—  
"And even in the gloom  
We are on the way."

## DEAF-BLIND WELFARE

○ F the nation's estimated 130,000 blind persons, there are several thousand who are referred to as the "deaf-blind."

To this unfortunate class, the radio is silent. Indeed, their only contact with the outside world, so near yet so incommunicable, is through the printing of literature in Braille and Moon types.

Aside from intensive courses inaugurated by some of the schools for the blind, designed especially to meet the peculiar needs of the deaf-blind, they have for the most part been left to shift for themselves.

Some two or three years ago, the Braille Institute of America announced its desire to do something constructive towards meeting the specific needs of these courageous, unfortunate people. Efforts in this direction, however, proved rather disappointing and unavailing, due in part to a lack of information as to the number of deaf-

blind in the United States and as how best to proceed with a program in their behalf.

When, therefore, announcement was made about a year ago of the formation of the American League for the Deaf-Blind, under the direction of Francis W. Bates, himself deaf and blind, and a few other deaf-blind individuals, the Braille Institute felt that here was an opportunity whereby it might actually contribute something towards the welfare of the doubly handicapped by giving such support to the League as its facilities made possible.

One of the first activities established was the publication of a Braille magazine—the Bulletin Board. It is ably edited by Mr. Bates, a former newspaper man, and its articles are of particular interest to its several hundred deaf-blind readers.

As a direct contribution to the deaf-

(Continued to Page 19)



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

---

The story of a blind Spanish grandmother of early California recently unearthed again proves the resourcefulness of the sightless. According to the tale, which is now causing many chuckles among the knitters of San Francisco, she lived near Phoenix Lake. Besides keeping her men folk supplied with socks, she also kept the family cow supplied with tails. It appears that the bovine had lost its own tail and so had no defence against flies. The old lady knitted two woolen tails a year for it which she tied to the stump of the original tail.

\* \* \*

Lillian Hillman, a secretary at the New York Association for the Blind, recently realized her dream of being a Broadway actress when she played a small part in Sidney Kingsley's "The World We Make."

Kingsley met her a few weeks ago, learned of her wish and wrote the part into the play at the Guild Theater.

As the curtain rises, Miss Hillman is seated before a psychiatrist in his office. He passes his hand in front of her eyes, nudges her and then says: "A typical catatonic. No reaction at all."

Then Miss Hillman is led away.

\* \* \*

Twelve students of the Perkins Institution for the Blind have built a twenty-foot motor boat.

Most of the builders are totally blind, but a trial run on the Charles River recently proved the boat shipshape.

The launch seats fifteen and is powered with an automobile engine. It took one year to construct under the supervision of David Abraham.

\* \* \*

In 1887, when Joseph Pulitzer, famous publisher, was threatened with blindness, due to overwork, he made plans to continue his career rather than retire. Two years later, now blind, he surrounded himself with a corps of competent secretaries and started on a world-cruise. He continued to dictate his powerful editorials until a few hours before his death in 1911 and kept in daily touch with his paper, the *New York World*.

\* \* \*

Charles Pulsen, blind Justice of the Peace and City Judge, Lompoc, California, has announced his Republican candidacy for Congress from the 10th Congressional District.

\* \* \*

When a fire broke out in the workshop at the Industrial Workshop for the Blind, Los Angeles, on December 8, 45 sightless workers marched out of the building in orderly line in what they thought was routine fire drill. So calm were the workers in marching out that, once they were out in the open, several of them attempted to re-enter the building thinking the drill was ended.

Herbert Wager, who has but one per cent vision, was at work on the renovating machine when there was a slight explosion and he felt the blast of heat and caught the flash of light. He



leaped from his machine, slammed the fire door shut, and pulled all the electric switches, shutting off the power, as he set off the fire alarm.

Within less than a minute, the other workers, 80 per cent of them totally blind, were marching out, marshaled by other partly blind persons and members of the administrative staff. According to the manager, George A. Brown, normally there would have been about 80 blind workers in the shop.

\* \* \*

"On top of the world" is the way Dr. Claire Owens, blind osteopath of Exeter, Nebraska expressed it when she received her Braille globe designed by

the Braille Institute. Boundaries of the various countries are marked by round-headed tacks, which enable the blind to follow the course of world events.

\* \* \*

A region oratorical contest conducted by the American Legion in Hoboken, N. J., was won recently by Eleanor Duncan of Demarest High School, where she is a senior. Her manuscript, handed to the judges, was written in Braille, as Eleanor Duncan is blind. Her oration on "The Powers of the President of the United States" is now entered in the national competition, and should it win the \$4,000 prize, Miss Duncan will continue her study of music.



*May Mathieu, student at City College, Los Angeles, finds Poland on the Braille globe designed by the Braille Institute.*

—L. A. Times Photo



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XII      January, 1940      Number 2

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## 1940 Census

In his weekly broadcast recently, the Mayor of Los Angeles urged all citizens to cooperate wholeheartedly in obtaining an accurate census of Los Angeles City and County this year.

It is important also that an accurate census of blind persons be obtained, both locally and nationally.

According to the government census of 1930, the number of blind persons in the United States approximated 65,000. There are facts and figures available here and there to show that this number was grossly inaccurate. It is conservative to assume that the 1930 census was about fifty per cent correct.

The blind, their friends, and workers for the blind are urged to do their part in securing an accurate census this year; especially in view of important legislation concerning the blind and their welfare.



## Collective Giving

The editorial under this heading in the October number of *Light* touched a responsive tone in the thought of Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes which seems destined to bring substantial fi-

nancial returns in support of our blind welfare activities.

For the information of new subscribers and readers who likely did not see that editorial comment, may we repeat that it dealt with the tremendous advantages of "collective giving," through a program to be presented under the banner: "A penny a day drives darkness away." Could a few thousand friends be enlisted in this campaign, pledged to lay aside one cent a day for the Braille Institute's welfare program, it is possible to envisage the time when at least one-half of the annual budget might be guaranteed in advance without a financial burden to any single individual.

Evidently Mrs. Hughes grasped this possibility and her spontaneous resourcefulness immediately provided for a plan whereby it might become an eventuality. Without delay Mrs. Hughes asked permission of the Institute to send to her personal friends, at her own expense, a pig bank adequate to hold at least 365 pennies. At this point her secretary, Miss Marie Tabler, interjected with a quiet little smile that Mrs. Hughes was making reservations for more than 365 pennies in selecting the size of some of the banks.

Of course the plan was graciously accepted. Accordingly, more than 250 banks, and a penny with each bank for the extra day in 1940, were sent to her friends. With each bank was enclosed a copy of the Braille Institute's December bulletin, which featured ways and means by which to make Christmas gifts to the blind. Tied to each pig was a little card carrying the slogan: "A penny a day drives darkness away from some one," together with a series of cards with these words: "A Merry



Christmas from Edith W. Hughes. But —if you will save 'a penny a day' for a year (and this pig holds 365 pennies), and send it (or its equivalent) to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, then will I say: 'A Happy New Year.' "

For this esteemed kindness and resourcefulness the Braille Institute trustees and staff members are deeply grateful to Mrs. Hughes. At their request she very kindly wrote for publication how she was inspired to present to her friends this unique opportunity to subscribe to the Institute's slogan. Her story appears on page 8.

In behalf of the blind who may and will benefit thereby, we wish to thank her and her many friends whom we know will grasp the opportunity to help in this way as spontaneously as did Mrs. Hughes. We believe in the idea so thoroughly that we are already making plans to house these "homing pigs" when they begin to arrive with their blind welfare provisions during the year or next December.



## Braille Dictionary

Orders continue to come in from the blind and libraries for the blind for the self-pronouncing Braille edition of Webster's Students Dictionary, which has been printed in 32 volumes with a reference handbook, under a cooperative agreement between the Braille Institute and the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky.

This dictionary, a G. & C. Merriam Webster, necessitated the making of 7,350 plates, its 57,000 words printed on both sides of the paper in Braille, Grade One and a Half. The volumes are approximately 12 x 11½ inches.

Under the agreement, the American Printing House furnishes the dictionary to the schools for the blind in the United States and its territories under the Federal textbook subsidy. The individual blind and libraries for the blind are being supplied by the Braille Institute, where the first edition was a 50-copy run — 1,600 volumes. Nearly half of this first edition has been sold.

The price to libraries and schools is \$96, plus transportation, but to the individual blind the Institute is making a special price of \$40 for the 32 volumes with reference handbook, which includes shipping charges.

In offering this dictionary to the blind at \$40, a saving of \$56 per set, the Braille Institute is unable to fill these orders unless the full amount is paid, regretting that the funds available for this project do not permit accepting installment payments.

The first 20 volumes and the handbook have been shipped and the remaining volumes will be sent out in multiples of four.



## Blind Resourcefulness

At all times the Braille Institute stands ready to champion the resourcefulness of the employable blind and their ability to compete in certain lines of employment in industry, the professions and the business world.

When everything else is equal, the Institute will continue to show preference for the employment of blind men and women in the commercial world. At all times, it stands ready to fight the industrial battles of the blind and to help them in every walk of life to the extent funds make possible. It will do this courageously, based upon what have been found practicable, conservative standards for blind workers,



whether or not such standards conform to the views of the blind who apply to the Institute for assistance and counsel.

To do this, we must face the issues squarely without respect to persons but with due deference to facts as we know them to be.

Vain, visionary, idealistic notions must not let zeal outrun discretion. We should not think to deceive ourselves or others, but rather face the facts as they are.

Physically speaking, a blind man is a *blind man*. No one can deny that. There are many things he can do and *do well*, unassisted. But there are other things he cannot do, and it would be absurd for him to try, or for the Braille Institute to advocate that he can do them. Here, the writer speaks from experience—some 28 years of experience without physical sight—years wherein he has accomplished some things successfully — and during which he has failed at others.

The blind welfare agency must recognize these facts clearly or it will be a case of the blind leading the blind.

Success in all vocations in life depends largely upon proper guidance in choosing a vocation. The training for the vocation might be considered as a secondary matter. This is true with the sighted as well as the sightless. Many college trained men and women have signally failed because they tried to train themselves in vocations for which

they had no aptitude. In common parlance, the cause of such failures is tersely summed up as "they missed their calling." This means, of course, recognition that those same persons, had they pursued vocations and training suitable to their liking and ability, would be listed among the successful, perhaps some of them in *Who's Who*. That is all very well, and as it should be. At any rate, it is somewhat complimentary to the individuals concerned.

But, unfortunately, the public is not yet educated so to interpret occasional failures by the blind in the professional or industrial world. Invariably the indictment is that blindness is responsible for the failures, rather than improper guidance, or misguidance when they entered a training course.

Therefore, a double responsibility rests upon the blind welfare agency. A responsibility not always easy to discharge successfully and one which, in the discharge thereof, too frequently means disappointment in the beginning, which however is better than disillusionment in the end.

Better, too, for the counsellor that all conditions be considered well and wisely in the beginning, even though it may incur unpleasant involvements, than to encourage the blind in the pursuit of vocations and trades which have been found impracticable for the sightless to follow.





## IVAN A. THORSON

Rehabilitation of men and boys was the hobby of Ivan A. Thorson when he was superintendent of schools in one or two towns in northern Minnesota. He made it a habit of rounding up boys who had left school at an early age, and conducted special classes for them. Several of his students turned out unusually well, one becoming a bank president in Chicago, another a professor at a university, and others proved to be successful business men.

On moving to Minneapolis, where he engaged in business, he made a specialty of helping young men and boys just out of jail, in an attempt to get them started anew. Judges were willing in many instances to parole these cases to Mr. Thorson and the majority justified his interest and confidence.

On several occasions he was active in community chest campaigns and in raising money for eleemosynary institutions. In this volunteer work he had an enviable record.

Since coming to Los Angeles, where he organized the Ivan A. Thorson Organization, Inc., real estate analysts, appraisers and tax consultants, he has also been on the teaching staff of the University of California, Extension Division. Here he has been in general charge of land economics and real estate law and practice.

His general business and professional background consists of a thorough academic training in economics, sociology, political science and international law, to which is added many years of practical experience as

an executive of commercial, industrial and financial institutions.

Mr. Thorson has four children, two boys and two girls. He and his family



IVAN A. THORSON

are members of the Presbyterian Church. He belongs to the Athletic, Altrurian and Kiwanis Clubs and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

A successful business and professional man, with a humanitarian interest in his less fortunate brothers, should qualify as one to raise funds to finance the activities of a welfare institution devoted to the blind. A contract to this end has been entered into by the Braille Institute of America and the Ivan A. Thorson Organization, Inc.

Light turns its rays on Ivan A. Thorson and wishes him success in his latest undertaking in the field of philanthropy!



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*Mutual Progressive Association of the Blind, Inc.*, Chicago, Ill. This organization received its charter in June 1938 for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a workshop for its members. The following November a building was rented with funds raised among friends in the vicinity of the headquarters at 3263 Ogden Avenue. January 1, 1939 a modest start was made toward the production of rubber door-mats; later brushes. From this small beginning the group has made steady progress during the first year. They now report \$1,500 worth of machinery and equipment, a stock of over \$1,000 in finished articles in the storerooms and \$1,150 cash in the bank to use as working capital. Forty-five men are kept busy in the workshop and a sales force of ten, including two blind men, is employed. The solicitation is made by telephone. Fred Sherman is president of the Association. Mr. Sherman says the organization started out "to prove to the world that the blind were capable of handling their own affairs and also to prove that a workshop for the blind can be operated profitably without being subsidized."

\* \* \*

*New York Institute for the Education of the Blind*, New York, N. Y. The use of Braille in the education of the blind was graphically reported in *Newsweek* for Nov. 27, 1939, when a full page of photographs showed how students were trained for useful vocations. Sightless youths, using aviation mechanics' tools with Braille markings, learn the ins and outs of airplane motors. Tactile maps, with Braille nota-

tions, are used in the study of geography. The sightless telephone operator is taught to use the switchboard with Braille notations; while the dials of short-wave radio transmitters and sheet music are also indicated in the embossed dot system.

\* \* \*

*Division of the Blind, Wisconsin Bureau of Public Welfare*. In Milwaukee, December 11, a plan to employ 50 blind persons and make them at least partially self-supporting through the management of refreshment stands in public buildings was offered informally to the Common Council's buildings and grounds committee by Alvin Jones, a representative of the Division of the Blind, according to the *Milwaukee Journal*. He proposed to try the plan out first in the City Hall.

\* \* \*

*Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation*, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The annual six weeks Summer School for forty-seven children who attend the Braille and Sight Conservation Classes of the Public Schools was very successful this year as was the annual fishermen's party at Lincoln Lake. The Blind Sportsmen's Club sponsors this week's outing at Odd Fellows cottage. There were nine blind men and two sighted men in the party. Fishing, boating and swimming were enjoyed equally by all. Singing and other music and games provided indoor entertainment. The club also assisted in entertaining several other groups who visited the lake during the week, including one made up of young blind men, several of them recent high school



graduates. They came on purpose to learn how the experienced blind sportsmen managed their fishing, rowing and other sports.

\* \* \*

*Blind Brotherhood of Maryland, Inc.*, Baltimore. This organization is conducting a campaign in behalf of Senate Bill No. 1766 to provide for the payment of annuities to blind persons. This bill was introduced in the first session of the present Congress by Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon. Rosario Epsora, chairman of the legislative committee, is seeking the cooperation of the sightless and their friends throughout the country in bringing about the passage of this measure.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's*, London. On December 8, Captain Sir Ian Fraser, chairman, with two blinded ex-servicemen, laid a wreath on the grave of Sir Arthur Pearson, the founder of *St. Dunstan's* for Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen.

\* \* \*

*Oklahoma Commission for Adult Blind*, Oklahoma City. Mrs. O. B. Grimmett has been appointed executive secretary of the commission. She has a wide acquaintance throughout the state. One of her duties is to convince merchants that blind-made products are superior merchandise and through her efforts new outlets are being found. This commission is a five-member board appointed by the Governor which meets quarterly to discuss the activities of the department. Through the efforts of J. Derrell Smith, placement agent, the Commission now has 27 vending stands under its supervision.

\* \* \*

*New Zealand Institute for the Blind*, Auckland. The Hutchinson Home for

elderly women was opened recently as the newest addition to the New Zealand Institute, so named for Mr. A. J. Hutchinson who has been chairman of the trustees for the past 13 years. The home will accommodate 25 women and a separate staff. In 1934, Bledisloe House was opened for elderly men. There are now 171 residents at the Institute, according to a report made at the opening of the new home, and the organization is in communication with 1,000 other blind people throughout the Dominion. A circulating library of Braille books is maintained.

\* \* \*

*National Society for the Prevention of Blindness*. The Society directors have announced an eye institute for public health nurses to be conducted in Los Angeles January 23 under the direction of Miss Eleanor W. Mumford of New York, N. Y.

## ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing) ..	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 11.....	.12
5 lbs.....	.50
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 12.....	.15
5 lbs.....	.65
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)....	.15
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking.....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men.....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus....	2.00
Hill String Lineguide (for longhand writing).....	2.50



## THEY SAID HE COULD NEVER PREACH

*(Continued from Page 4)*

A daughter is now secretary to the college librarian in Stillwater, and a younger son is office manager for the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, at Tulsa—all three children have given their parents unbounded pride and happiness, minister's youngsters though they are.

Besides preaching, and raising a family, Willmoore Kendall has done considerable writing for religious and literary periodicals, and in 1910 published "The Aspiring Life," a volume of sermons and essays.

\* \* \*

Some years ago, Helen Keller contributed to the "Atlantic Monthly" an interesting article enumerating the things she would chose to see, if granted three days of sight.

This led Mr. Kendall to speculate in the same vein, and print a pamphlet, "If I Were Given Three Days of Sight," and his choice of things to see throws a light on his personality.

Miss Keller said she would want to visit a museum first, and see the relics of Man's progress, and after that, to devote much of her precious time to the theater.

Mr. Kendall would devote no time to either, although he loves drama, has steeped himself in plays from the Greek tragedies to Eugene O'Neill, and has paid many visits to institutions like the Field Museum of Chicago, seeing fossils and pottery, weapons and tools, by touch.

His first choice would be to have his family about him, at home, and to see them physically, as he has seen them without eyesight, through their years of development, with his sons' wives, and his sister, brother-in-law, and their son.

After the first forenoon, winding up in a family dinner, he would start driving through the Wichita mountains and forest preserve, which he loves for their many associations, and their beauty enjoyed on many visits. The Kiamichis, on Oklahoma's southeastern border, are even more beautiful, in his opinion, but too far for an auto drive scheduled for only three days of sight.

He would want to see an Oklahoma sunset, and as its colors faded, would take an airplane for Colorado Springs, flying under the stars, to be on hand for sunrise at Pike's Peak, for he has already "seen" the Rockies through others' eyes.

Then by plane to the Grand Canyon, the Golden Gate, the California redwood trees, and the orange groves. Then home again, for an hour in his pulpit, and the ability to see his congregation.

And finally, the last evening of sight with his family, watching the sunset, and back to the dark way, knowing that love is the best of life.

## Harry W. Brintnall Co.

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# GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

(Continued from Page 7)

blind, who above all else are yearning for economic freedom and social security. Their enforced idleness is their worst enemy. They want something to do, something with which to keep mind and body employed to the end that they may become self-supporting.

The blind with whom I have talked on this subject have said emphatically that if they were given a choice between the gift of a guide dog and the loan of a sufficient sum, up to \$1,000, with which to finance them in a vending stand, or business venture, they would choose the latter, and afterwards, if they wanted dogs they would buy them.

No, we're not against guide dogs for the blind, whether they are the "seeing eye" dogs or dogs trained and furnished by other than the Seeing Eye, Inc., Morristown, N. J.

We are merely opposed to the exaggerated and sentimental publicity as to the need and use of such dogs, which within the last few years has encouraged the establishment of not fewer than four organizations in Los Angeles County alone for the purpose of breeding and training dogs to lead the blind. We are inclined to agree with many officials in work for the blind that this many organizations are not necessary and that their establishment and maintenance are an unnecessary duplication of cost and effort at the expense of the public.

In conclusion, let dogs be supplied to the blind who can use them and who need them. But let this not be done at the expense of hundreds of the blind who yearn for financial assistance in their struggle for social security and self-support.

# DEAF-BLIND WELFARE

(Continued from Page 9)

blind, since September 1939, the Bulletin Board has been published on the press of the Braille Institute. What this has meant is better said by Mr. Bates in a recent letter. . . .

"The American League for the Deaf-Blind, Inc., acknowledges with frank admission that it could never have accomplished what has been done had it not been for the medium of a monthly Braille publication. . . .

"Nothing that we have done could have been accomplished without the splendid unselfish aid of this great American institution that began its career only twenty years ago. To the Braille Institute of America, Inc., to you, Mr. Atkinson, to your board of trustees and to those of your staff who have aided us: the American League for the Deaf-Blind salutes you with humble thanks and a heart full of gratitude for your service.

"In behalf of America's three thousand unfortunates who live in the silence of the night, I speak their thanks and it is our devout wish that your great philanthropic undertaking in behalf of America's blind shall become anchored in the hearts of the blind and the deaf-blind as strongly as the Rock of Gibraltar."

## *Piano Wanted—*

A 9-year-old blind child with marked musical ability needs a piano to continue his studies. Anyone with an instrument to donate or lend should communicate with

**BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF  
AMERICA, INC.**

741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, Calif.



FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of

.....(or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of  
....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the <sup>testator</sup><sub>testatrix</sub> as and for a Codicil to <sup>his</sup><sub>her</sub> last Will dated.....

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at <sup>his</sup><sub>her</sub> request and in <sup>his</sup><sub>her</sub> presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....



# HISTORY

THE Braille Institute of America, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the nation's blind. Chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille System, and with its headquarters in Los Angeles, it stands on the Pacific Coast as a memorial to that blind benefactor, Louis Braille, whose ingenuity made truly practical the publication of literature of all kinds in raised print for the blind.

The origin of the Braille Institute dates back to 1919, when an unincorporated, philanthropic institution known as "Universal Braille Press," devoted exclusively to the literary welfare of the blind through the printing of good literature of all kinds in Braille, was established in Los Angeles, California.

Its founding by J. Robert Atkinson was made possible through the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, who on September 13, 1919, pledged a sum of \$25,000 for the purpose, payable \$5,000 a year. The pledge was made on the condition that Mr. Atkinson would assume full responsibility for the establishment and management of such an institution; and in order that he might devote his entire time to the project, the gift included a salary stipulation for the five years. All the conditions of this benevolent contract were faithfully fulfilled.

Between the years 1912 and 1919, Mr. Atkinson had demonstrated his fitness to establish a printing plant for the blind by transcribing into Braille by hand a unique library of scientific work, consisting of more than 960,000 words, bound in 16 large Braille volumes, prepared for his own use. It was this accomplishment that inspired

Mr. and Mrs. Longyear spontaneously to offer financial assistance.

Soon the benevolence of this newly founded publishing plant was felt by the blind of the nation and to some extent the literary service rendered by it benefited many of the English-reading blind of other nations. Gradually, the demands for social and economic welfare service brought the conviction that an institution founded on broader principles was the need, and to accomplish this the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered on September 30, 1929.

Governed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, and established to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, the Braille Institute ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

Since September 1919, therefore, the Braille Institute and the forces which gave rise to its incorporation have been rendering social and economic welfare service to the adult blind in California and the nation to the extent funds permitted; and its literary service has enriched the English-reading blind of the world.

In recognition of this, the work of the Braille Institute was given generous space by Rockwell D. Hunt, A.M., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School, University of Southern California, in his elaborate work, "California and Californians," published in 1932. Perhaps more gratifying still is the fact that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., has merited recognition as a national agency in work for the blind by the editors of the Social Work Year Book of the Russell Sage Foundation.





*"A penny a  
day drives  
darkness  
away"*

Since the advent of the pig bank, reported elsewhere in this issue of *Light*, many have asked how they might obtain banks that they, too, may adopt the above slogan.

In response to these requests, we have arranged to furnish a limited number of banks on request.

Several have already sent the yearly rations for "piggie" preferring to keep the bank as a souvenir or decorative ornament.

All are invited to participate in this plan for collective giving.

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Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

Please send me one of the pig banks announced in *Light* for January, 1940. I wish to help with your blind welfare work this year by adopting the slogan, "a penny a day drives darkness away."

When my bank is filled, I will return it, or its equivalent in cash.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

Date.....



# Light

"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."

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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, Inc. • LOS ANGELES

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Vol. XII, No. 3

April, 1940



*no July 1940 issue published*

## FEW OF HIS CLIENTS DISCOVER THAT HE IS BLIND

By JAMES H. COLLINS

THREE TIMES, Earl Kass has won membership in the New York Life Insurance Company's Hundred Thousand Club, which means that during three different years, he sold \$100,000 face amount of life insurance.

And *sold* means closed, paid for. Last year, he was a candidate for the Two Hundred Thousand Club, with nearly that amount closed, but just enough of it hung over to spoil his chance—if the company had had a Hundred-Seventy-Five Club, he'd have been a member of that.

And Earl Kass has been completely blind since nineteen, when in his native place, Salt Lake City, his eyes were injured during a college hazing mishap.

It often happens that after he has gained the attention of a stranger, convinced him by sound counsel that he ought to take a certain policy, adapted to his needs, and got the signature on the dotted line, the stranger asks, in

surprise, "Say, aren't you able to see?"

For Kass's eyes are not disfigured, he is a good-looking, athletic fellow, his wife goes along with him to attend to paper work, and few people ever think of him as blind at all.

Which is the way he wants it.

Over the United States, the company has a couple of dozen blind agents, and for their convenience, it supplies a rate book in Braille.

Once, a new manager got interested in Kass, thought he would help him by suggestions, and advised taking the Braille rate book when he called on a prospect. This was tried, but soon dropped, because the prospect immediately saw that Kass was blind, and got so interested in Braille that the little matter of life insurance was shunted into the background. And so, the Braille rate book is left in his car.

"After all," he says, "it is ideas that sell, not rates, and many a sighted in-



surance man forgets his printed rate book, leaves it in the car."

Earl M. Kass is now 47 years old, and after his college mishap spent ten years in futile efforts to regain his sight, years of medical examinations, and operations, and hope, and disappointment.

Wasted years, as he now knows.

"I simply would not accept blindness," he says. "I wouldn't admit that it had to be, and begin from that, but went on hoping, until finally necessity forced me to think about supporting myself, and I got busy."

At college, he was keen about sports, and ran the 100 yards and the 220. He is still keen about sports, and before he got into life insurance, in 1932, turned his interest to account.

When it was necessary to really go to work, he started in radio, as a singer, developing his high baritone voice, and sang on various western stations, among them KFI in Los Angeles.

He had always been interested in writing, and in the belief that he might become a newspaper columnist, went back to college for more schooling, this time to Marquette University, in Milwaukee.

It was while he was there that two things happened to change his life, one bad, one good.

First, he was run down by a motor-truck, had a leg badly injured, and was laid up for a year.

Second, he met the girl who became his wife, and who has worked with him to develop his insurance business.

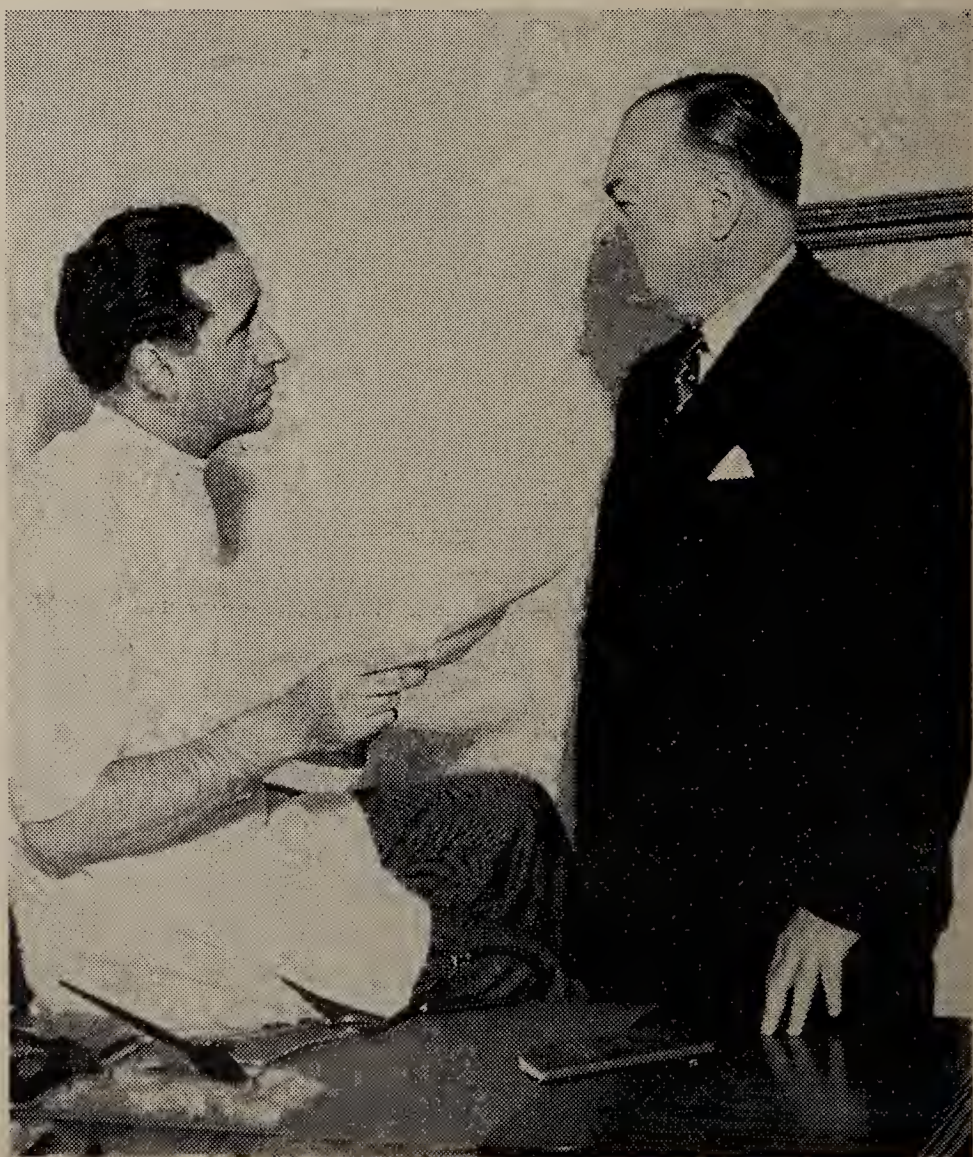
He knew very few people

here in sprawling Los Angeles, with its 450 miles of territory and its million-odd strangers, and could not begin by selling to friends.

"It was 'cold turkey,' discouraging at the start," he says, "but the best way, after all. To get an audience from strangers, and write policies, I had to study people, deal with them according to their characteristics, master their financial problems, and advise them about policies adapted to their circumstances."

It was here that his college work, which he took to help him become a columnist, proved excellent training. He had already written articles on assignment for newspapers, reporting sports events as a blind man. One assignment was the famous Rose Bowl game between the Trojans and Tulane,

(Continued to Page 18)



Braille Institute Photo

Earl Kass, right, sells an idea to Dr. J. L. Maeth, Beverly Hills.



# BRaille INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.: ITS INCEPTION, EXPANSION AND OBJECTIVE

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

*Vice-President and Managing Director*

[A paper prepared for the 18th biennial convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind at the request of its president, A. C. Ellis, and read to the Association at its convention in Los Angeles, California, July 12, 1939 by Marianne Garver, Executive Secretary.]

IN SEPTEMBER, 1919, a gift of \$25,000 made possible the founding of the Braille Institute of America, Inc. on the 100th anniversary of the Braille system of printing for the blind. The gift was made to me on the 13th of September, by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, of Brookline, Massachusetts, on the condition that I would assume full responsibility for the establishment and management of an institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the nation's blind.

In the beginning, the new institution was to confine its activities chiefly to the literary advancement of the blind by publishing good literature of all kinds free, or on a non-profit basis. Another condition of the gift was that I should not divulge the names of the donors. Six or seven years previously, Mrs. Longyear had given a substantial sum to aid in defraying expenses of the Committee on Uniform Type for the Blind, with a similar request.

All the conditions of this benevolent contract were faithfully fulfilled and it was not until it had terminated that the Longyears consented to let me announce their names publicly as the donors.

From the outset, the motto of the new printing institution was, "Lift up a standard for the people of Braille-land that they may read and not be weary."

Later this was made the motto for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine launched in July 1926.

As early as 1924, at the termination of the five-year contract, much good literature had been published, printed and bound in style and workmanship pronounced superior by many blind readers as well as librarians for the blind. Of those pronouncements, perhaps Miss Annie E. Carson of the Cleveland Public Library, paid us the best compliment in these words, "Mr. Atkinson has taken blindness out of books for the blind."

Among the first works to be published was the King James Version of the Bible with many innovations as to arrangement of text, practical and consistent for both ready reference and general use. Incidentally, this was the first complete edition of the King James Bible in the revised system, Grade One and a Half.

The temporary name given to the unincorporated institution was Universal Braille Press, and for ten years the literary service sponsored and the general welfare service gradually assumed, were conducted under that name.

In due course of time, other gifts and bequests were received, which, with the voluntary support of the public,



made possible steady expansion of its welfare activities.

Gradually it became evident that to meet the demands from the local blind and the blind of the nation for welfare service of various kinds, an institution founded on a broader basis should be established. Therefore, on September 30, 1929, a charter was granted by the State of California to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as a nation-wide, non-sectarian institution with headquarters in Los Angeles, to be devoted to the social and economic welfare of the blind in every walk of life. This name was chosen for the corporation as preferable to the name previously used for the unincorporated organization.

In the first decade of its existence, the incorporated institution has not only maintained its original objectives through the years of perhaps one of the worst depressions the world has ever known, but gradually it has enlarged and expanded its service to meet urgent requests from the nation's blind until its activities now include:

1) Social Welfare—work with local blind, and in some cases with the blind in other localities, having to do with personal adjustment problems created by blindness, including the donation of appliances or free services when necessary.

2) Home Teaching — free instruction in reading and writing raised print (Braille and Moon Type) and type-writing.

3) Business Guidance—consultation and other services, including business loans, to the employable blind and the sponsorship of vocational literature.

4) Library Service — free circulation of books in raised print and talking

book records to the blind of California and Arizona.

5) Literature—sponsorship of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay, including the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille.

6) Research—the development of appliances for the blind; consultation and other services to blind individuals and organizations.

7) Operation of a printing department for the publication of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types sponsored by the Braille Institute or by other agencies.

Although the annual income of the Braille Institute has never been commensurate with the demands made upon it by the blind for service which they have a right to expect from an institution of its kind, steady progress has been realized from year to year. The Institute's contribution to the social and economic betterment of the nation's blind for the calendar year ending December 31, 1938, as condensed from a certified audit of its books for the year, discloses disbursements in the amount of \$63,961.49. These included the following items: social welfare, \$18,442.75; business placement and guidance, \$1,076.01; free library service, \$5,850.01; free home teaching, \$1,295.64; literature distributed, \$8,159.11; cost of books and periodicals sold and circulated, \$29,137.97.

In the very beginning, while on a tour of the East in the endeavor to purchase printing equipment for the new plant, I spent much time at the office of the Matilda Ziegler Publishing Company. Having been a reader of the Ziegler magazine for many years, it was natural that I should advise with



the managing editor of that magazine, Mr. Walter G. Holmes, whose broad experience and interest proved very beneficial.

During these interviews, Mr. Holmes repeatedly urged the equipment of the new plant for interpoint printing, by which process both sides of the paper might be used. Mr. Holmes was the first to develop this process in the United States, and at that time the Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind, had been printed in that form for many years. The Ziegler equipment, however, though highly efficient and adequate for the publication of literature of an ephemeral nature, was not adaptable to the publication of books by the interpoint process.

Being well aware of the merits of two-side printing, a promise was made to Mr. Holmes, at that time, that the development of equipment for two-side printing would be considered. Having little or no rating whatever in the field of work for the blind, I felt that for me to initiate as radical and revolutionary a change as was involved in the inauguration of a plan to print books on both sides of the paper, was to venture beyond the borderland of discretion. No books had yet been printed on both sides of the paper by any of the presses in the United States and the attempt, by a novice, to establish such a precedent might be fraught with difficulties.

Nevertheless, true to the promise to Mr. Holmes, after having the Institute's printing plant well established and reasonably well recognized in the field, time and thought was devoted to the development of equipment for interpoint printing.

This experimentation was pursued cautiously and quietly, with the help of engineers, until finally at a confer-

ence of publishers at the office of the Matilda Ziegler Magazine in New York City in September 1925, I was urged, encouraged and aided to proceed with the development.

Stimulated by this official action, and with the help of mechanical engineers, the original Atkinson Model stereotyping machine, which had been demonstrated at the conference, was redesigned and rebuilt for two-side printing. This work was completed by the latter part of October 1925. Early in January 1926, the first publication was printed on this new equipment. It was the first issue of the Christian Science Bible Lessons in Braille, printed monthly for The Christian Science Publishing Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

In July 1926, *The Braille Mirror*, a monthly magazine, still published by the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was launched as the second publication to appear in interpoint print on the Institute's press. By the end of 1926 several books had been published in interpoint Braille, most of them under contract for the American Foundation for the Blind, whose endorsement of the interpoint process was both stimulating and encouraging in those pioneer days. Singularly enough, the first title selected by the foundation for publication in this form on the Braille Institute's press was, "The Dawn of a Tomorrow," by Frances Hodgson Burnett. It formed only one small Braille volume. Perhaps the size of the work influenced its selection for the first book to be printed when two-side printing was still in its experimental stages. However, the title now seems very significant for the occasion, in that its appearance in interpoint Braille did mark the dawn of a literary



renaissance for the blind of the United States.

The following year, 1927, the King James Version of the Bible, complete, was published in interpoint print on the Braille Institute's press. From that time on, all publications issued in the plant of the Braille Institute were printed in interpoint Braille; and by 1932 nearly all the other presses in the United States were equipped to print by that process. Since that time, much progress has been realized by all engaged in the printing industry, with the result that by 1934 interpoint printing in the United States was established on a scientific basis, and most of the presses were producing an excellent standard of workmanship in every operation in the manufacture of Braille books printed on both sides of the paper.

As early as 1914, just two years after losing my sight, I had learned to read four of the five systems then in current use. Many good books were then available to the blind, but a glance at library catalogues indicated the need of a wider range of subjects, both of a recreational and educational nature.

This resolved me to do what I could to correct this condition, but with no thought of ever entering the publishing field actively. That is why, when in 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Longyear spontaneously offered their gift for the purpose already explained, the matter was taken under advisement for weeks. When finally accepting their proposal, had I known the struggle it involved, undoubtedly my courage would have failed me. But, be that as it may, the Braille Institute of America is now established on a firm foundation; and when it is as securely endowed, as I intuitively feel it will be, at no distant

date, the little that has been accomplished to date will pale into insignificance as compared with the service that can and will be rendered.

In order more effectively to meet the need for better books, and more of them, one of the very first official acts of the Braille Institute's trustees was the endorsement of a plan to secure a Federal appropriation of \$100,000 a year. This plan was first announced at the thirteenth biennial convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind held at Lake Wawasee, Indiana in June 1929. In February the following year this bill was introduced into Congress by Representative Joe Crail of California. It failed of passage, however, our law-makers giving preference to a bill somewhat similar which had been introduced by Congresswoman Ruth Pratt of New York, on the same day that Congressman Crail introduced his bill.

For several years, workers for the blind, especially interested in the distribution of literature in Moon type, importuned the Braille Institute of America to equip its printing plant for the publication of such literature. Although desirous of doing so, it was not until 1932 that funds were available which could be used for the purpose.

By midsummer 1933 a Moon stereotyper was perfected by which Moon literature might be printed from plates instead of by the process employed in England; and that same year a monthly magazine in Moon type, the first ever to be printed in America, was launched by the Braille Institute. Previous to that time all Moon literature in circulation in the United States had been printed in England.

Printing from plates has a distinct

(Continued to Page 20)



## A BLINDED WOMAN'S RE-BEGINNINGS

**T**O A GROWN person losing eyesight, the path of life stretches ahead, but obstructed by new hurdles.

These hurdles, and one blind adult's victory over them, are described with whimsical humor in the recent book, "I Begin Again," by ALICE BRETZ (New York, Whittlesey House, \$1.75), who lost her sight through sickness.

Mrs. Bretz is an educated woman, the wife of a physician, who died some years after her blindness, and she relates her experiences re-learning how to keep house, occupy her time, maintain friendships, readjust herself to opera, plays, movies and other interests of her sighted life.

For example—books. At first, people read to her, and she knew only vaguely that there was something for the blind called "Braille." But she learned finger reading quickly, finding it mostly a matter of practice backed by desire.

But Braille readers go slower than sight readers, and she discovered that familiar books had undergone a change for the worse—when read at the Braille pace, they were full of superfluous words. Authors who translate well into Braille are rare, in her experience.

A good many of her difficulties arose from people telling her of wonderful things blind persons had learned, and accomplished. She tried to do them, too, and felt that she had failed. Later, she learned that these other blind persons had had help in performing their feats, and also got a better idea of her own limitations as well as her possibilities.

One of the most important requirements for a blind person re-learning in middle age is to thoroughly think things through beforehand.

Believing that she ought to have some in-

terest outside her everyday home life, Mrs. Bretz selected aid to other adult blind persons as her avocation, assisting them with her knowledge, experience and encouragement. She has done this by personal association with blinded adults, and also by lecturing to nurses and other sighted persons in charge of the adult blind.

Mrs. Bretz now lives alone in her own New York apartment, with many friends and interests, genuinely happy in the place she has made by beginning again.



*Photo Courtesy Whittlesey House*

ALICE BRETZ



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

---

This is another story about a blind miner. It's about James Newman, who has been drilling and blasting in darkness for the last ten years. In 1929 he was blinded in a blasting mishap. After his wounds healed he went back to his claim and his cabin in the Wasatch mountains just east of Salt Lake City, Utah. The mine now runs 600 feet into the hillside. He tunneled every inch of it, drilling, blasting, mucking, rail laying and tie cutting. The shaft is eight feet high, planned that way so he won't bump his head. He can tell exactly where his drifts lead off from the main tunnel. But he must depend on friends to describe rock that may contain ore. Some gold has been taken out of the mine, but the "strike" — that goal that leads all miners on — still eludes him. Friends marvel at how deftly and quickly he finds his tools and fires his shots. Some think it dangerous—a blind man mining; but Newman laughs at that. "It isn't nearly as dangerous for me to fire blasting powder in my mine as it is to cross a street in the city." He's still hoping for "pay dirt."

\* \* \*

Paul Tischner, totally deaf-blind man of Chicago, has built and completely equipped a full-size automobile trailer. They said it couldn't be done, "but he did it." It took him a year and garage mechanics who have viewed it say it is a "swell job." Tischner is glad to

show you through the trailer. He will point out how completely equipped it is, how he even wired it for 100-volt lights and battery lights. He'll point out how modern are the lighting fixtures, will call your attention to how the wires are invisible under the panels. He'll show you how handy the windows are and, before you know it, you forget that you are listening to a man who can neither hear nor see. To communicate with Tischner one writes words in his hands, but he's generally letters ahead of you and knows the word being spelled before the speller is half through. You can "talk" with him by this means almost as fast as if you were having a normal conversation. He would like to make the trailer into a shop and make leather goods for sale there.

\* \* \*

"Our Town," the play without scenery, was witnessed by a group of blind persons who afterwards engaged in a lively discussion as to whether or not the sightless were better able to imagine the missing scenery than persons accustomed to using their eyes. Miss Ruth Askensas, president of the Lighthouse Players of the New York Association for the Blind, commented: "Well, what do you do when you listen to a play on the radio? We blind people fill in most all of the details, even when they have not been described especially." The special matinee was



a combined contribution made by the cast, stage crew, producer and theatre owner.

\* \* \*

The winner of the Irish Tourist Association's essay competition, arranged at the request of the Dublin Corporation, was Martin Conneely, a blind boy. The subject given was "Keeping Our City Beautiful." The essay was written in Braille and then transcribed in typewriting with "remarkable accuracy," according to *The New Beacon*. The competition was open to every primary school pupil in the city under 14 years of age. The best essay from each school was awarded a prize and then was entered in the final competition, in which a ten per cent preference was accorded to essays written in Irish. Martin is a pupil of St. Joseph's School for the Blind, Drumcondra, Dublin. In his essay, he said: "Whatever disorder and drabness there may be is not the fault of the city itself, but of the small number of those who are thoughtless enough to have no pride in their grand town. . . ."

\* \* \*

Camp Fire Girls everywhere are proud of their own Sally Ann Green. Sally Ann is a Camp Fire Girl in Grand Rapids, Michigan and her poem, "The Leaves," was one of those to win the Fifth National Poetry Contest. The poem will be found on page 12 of this issue of *Light*. A distin-

guished group of poet-judges commended it for its feeling for color, remarkable because Sally Ann in the ten years of her life had never seen color. She is an outstanding Camp Fire Girl and painstakingly and very neatly printed out her diary in Braille. This diary is one of the requirements for honors. She is quite a talented pianist and has a bird in her headband to denote music. She has a symbol for water, which she likes to play in, and the hand symbol is used as she enjoys doing things with her hands. Her Camp Fire name is Wamu-ha, for water, music and hand. Recently she has been reading "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," a Braille book in six volumes. She enjoyed the movie of this title as she was able to distinguish what was being said and a Camp Fire Girl explained the action. Sally Ann is in the sixth grade at school and confidentially admitted to a friend that she liked school. "I don't

(Continued to Page 24)



Braille Institute Photo

Sally Ann Green, winner in the Camp Fire Girls' Fifth National Poetry Contest.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
 MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XII      April, 1940      Number 3

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## THE LEAVES

By SALLY ANN GREEN\*

Red leaves, yellow leaves, crimson,  
 and brown

Now from the tree tops come tumbling  
 down

To the tune of the gay wind

They dance and they skip

And over and over the gay leaves flip.

When every leaf is down from the trees

And snugly laid on the ground,

The snow a white coverlet over them  
 lays

Till come the sunny warm spring days.

---

\*Age 10, totally blind. Winner in the Camp Fire Girls' Fifth National Poetry Contest, 1940, and read over Ted Malone's "Between the Bookends" program, National Broadcasting Company's Blue Network, February 7.



## Pesterre Fund

Blind baseball fans at Wrigley Field are able to get more enjoyment out of the games played there due to earphones and equipment placed in some of the boxes through the Pesterre Fund at the Braille Institute.

This fund was started by Mr. Arthur Pesterre, Beverly Hills, who became interested in the project through Earl Houk, adjudicator for the blind of the

County Charities Department. This equipment enables the blind baseball enthusiast to get the play-by-play description as it goes out over the radio, with the added advantage of sitting in a box at the ball game where he gets the reaction and thrill of those who actually see the game.

Since Mr. Pesterre's original donation to this fund, several of his friends have joined him and nearly \$200 has gone through the books of the Institute for this and other welfare services.

Among other things, a substantial loan was made to a blind Chinese gardener who wished to raise mushrooms. Playing cards and radios have been donated; radio service furnished and earphones supplied for several sets. At Christmas several generous baskets were given to the worthy blind whose families otherwise might have been deprived of this holiday cheer.



## When in Doubt . . .

Very favorable is the evidence indicating that the public generally is gradually awakening to the fact that even the destitution of blindness is not immune from exploitation of the promoter—the "boiler room operator" as he is known to investigating agencies in Southern California.

Favorable, also, is the fact that in Southern California, at least, the public is gradually realizing that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., is the only reputable private agency engaged in welfare work for the blind to which it can, and should, turn for authentic information.

With a background of twenty years experience in local and national welfare work for and with the blind, the Braille Institute's management is preeminently qualified as an authority on



such matters; and it is grateful to have merited the confidence of a constantly increasing number who recognize the Institute as the source to which they should turn for advice.

Not infrequently these days do social and civic groups, service clubs and individuals consult the Braille Institute with respect to conditions affecting the welfare of the blind, including pending legislation.

Quite often the inquiries have to do with solicitation for funds in behalf of blind welfare, such as door-to-door canvassing, flower sales, tag days and other street campaigns; and last, but not least, telephonic solicitation. In nearly all of these, the appeals are usually so sentimental and seemingly logical, as to mislead many well-meaning people who desire to help the physically handicapped.

Of all these, the solicitation by telephone is the most objectionable. But each appeal deserves investigation, not only as to the agency in whose interest it is made and the need for the service, but also as to who is the promoter and how he is to profit.

A case in point, which we think may well be cited, occurred recently and is, in fact, responsible in part for this comment.

The superintendent of the Braille Institute was called to the telephone. A lady's voice greeted him. She didn't disclose her name. What she wanted to know was the authenticity of a telephonic solicitation she just received for funds in behalf of a local organization which is furnishing and training dogs to lead the blind.

So convincing was the appeal, she said, that she was ready to write her check for the amount asked. But when the solicitor at the other end of the

wire refused to give her an address to which she might mail the check she became suspicious. He insisted on sending a messenger to pick it up right away. Other remarks by the solicitor increased her suspicions, as well as those of her husband, and the check was not written. Instead the Braille Institute was called for information.

The need for funds with which to assist the blind was never greater than right now. Nor was the need ever greater than now for the public to seek correct information when appealed to for such assistance. This fact was recognized by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce when, in its official bulletin, it suggested "that in matters pertaining to aids for the blind," members should first phone the Braille Institute "where proper information can be obtained."



## Trust Funds

For a few years the welfare service of the Braille Institute has been enhanced through a generous annual donation by the Advisory Distribution Committee of the California Community Foundation, a trust operated by the Security-First National Bank, Los Angeles.

So helpful have these annual contributions been that the trustees of the Braille Institute feel the time has come when the kindness should be given public recognition that the Institute members and readers of *Light* may be informed on the subject and join the trustees in an expression of gratitude.

Especially does this announcement seem timely just now in view of the negotiations pending with the California Community Foundation whereby our members and contributors and



# 57,000 WORDS IN SELF-PRONOUNCING BRAILLE

One of the very first great literary needs of the blind envisaged by our managing director when founding the Braille Institute of America was an adequate abridged dictionary in Braille. He began to advocate the production of such a work as early as 1923.

Educators of the blind, and others much more experienced in blind welfare work, discouraged him from the outset. Their theory was that such a work could not be produced practicably in Braille; that it would be too costly and too voluminous; and that the demand did not justify the cost.

Nevertheless, convinced by his own experience as a Braille reader, he stoutly maintained that the adult blind reader's library was incomplete without an adequate abridged dictionary in Braille. He contended that the education of the blind of school age in the tax-supported state institutions was hampered and restricted without a dictionary in Braille. He circulated the field with letters to this effect. He had articles published in the newspapers emphasizing the need. Later, he editorialized frequently on the subject in "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine launched in 1926 by the Braille Institute.

In May 1929 he brought the matter to the attention of the House Committee on Education, during a hearing on the Crail Bill, designed to provide a Federal appropriation of \$100,000 a year for the literary advancement of the blind of this nation.

Members of that committee were chagrined to learn that an adequate

abridged dictionary in Braille had never been published despite a liberal Federal appropriation provided to furnish textbooks to the various state schools for the blind.

At that time (1930) the Braille Institute had been granted a free permit by Funk and Wagnalls to publish in Braille any edition of their several abridgments. Not long after the Congressional hearing, the trustees of the American Printing House for the Blind announced their intention to publish in Braille an abridgment of Webster's Dictionary, under the Federal textbook appropriation available to them.

This caused our managing director to advocate a cooperative plan whereby the Braille Institute and the American Printing House might collaborate in the production of the dictionary in Braille, thus avoiding duplication of effort and cost at public expense.

Mr. A. C. Ellis, superintendent of the American Printing House, at once recognized the advantage of the joint publication of the dictionary to all concerned and the plan was unanimously approved by the trustees of the two institutions.

As the American Printing House had obtained permission from the G. & C. Merriam Company to Braille one of its Webster abridgments, and as the American Association of Instructors of the Blind had already selected Merriam's Webster as authority on technical questions relative to the publication of textbook material in Braille, the Institute gladly relinquished its per-



mit so generously given by the Funk and Wagnalls Company.

Above all, it was decided this dictionary should be self-pronouncing, which meant that a code of Braille diacritics must be created. This difficult task was accomplished in due time, but not without delay, and other conditions caused still further delay.

Meanwhile, the G. & C. Merriam Company indicated that work on the project might be deferred to advantage. It developed later that this was a very generous attitude on their part. They were even then working on a revision of what was to be "Webster's Students Dictionary for Upper School Levels," based on the New International, Second Edition. The blind and educators of the blind owe the Merriam Company an everlasting debt of gratitude for the foresight and solicitude which prompted them to discourage work on a Braille dictionary until one of their very latest editions might be used.

The Students Dictionary in letterpress appeared on the market in July 1938. Work on the Braille plates began immediately and was completed that same year. At once an edition was published and distributed to the schools for the blind by the American Printing House. The plates were received at the Braille Institute early in 1939, and work on its edition started

at once. This consisted of a 50-copy run, aggregating 1,600 volumes. As rapidly as multiples of four volumes were completed they were shipped to purchasers until the entire set of 32 volumes, plus reference handbook, was completed.

While the cost of the work, including the plates, approximates \$96 per set of 32 volumes, plus reference handbook, the Braille Institute is endeavoring to maintain a special price to blind readers of \$40 per set, postpaid. But even this \$40 price is exorbitant when it is remembered that the same dictionary in letterpress is available to sighted readers at less than \$5. The differential of \$56 per set must be sustained through contributions for the purpose.

BRAILLE DICTIONARY IN THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. CECIL LEE



Braille Institute Photo

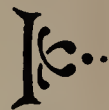
"Yes, Cecil, here it is, U-N-C-O-N-S-C-I-O-N-A-B-L-E. We haven't been disappointed yet."







## INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD



*The Seeing Eye, Incorporated*, Morristown, N. J. Scores of blind people and hundreds of their friends have been victimized by a cruel hoax which occurs in various parts of the country and which has been running now for over two years. According to this hoax, a blind person can secure a Seeing Eye dog by saving tinfoil, cigarette papers, empty paper match folders, etc. These stories are entirely without foundation but considerable credence is placed in them because hundreds of thousands of match folders have been saved for this purpose. . . . The Seeing Eye employs no solicitors of any kind whatsoever, and anyone claiming to represent the organization and accepting contributions for it, and who is not identified with one of the organization's several committees, which are composed of outstanding citizens, should be investigated for the protection of the community. The Seeing Eye does not participate in, nor authorize its name to be used in connection with, any fund-raising events or benefits, tag days, "sales," or any event for which tickets are sold, and any organization or group claiming to raise funds in such a manner for The Seeing Eye is doing so without authorization. . . . Although for efficiency of operation The Seeing Eye maintains its headquarters in Morristown, N. J., the school serves blind men and women in all parts of the country, drawing its students without discrimination from wherever there is need. . . . The Seeing Eye has no branches and under no cir-

cumstances would The Seeing Eye establish a branch which was less effectively staffed than at headquarters. The present physical equipment is sufficient to meet the national demands for dog guides for some time to come.

\* \* \*

*Los Angeles Public Library.* The monthly meetings of the Los Angeles County Club for Adult Blind will be held in the lecture room Saturday afternoon at 2 p. m. The first meeting was held Saturday, March 16. The April meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 and the May meeting for Saturday, May 18. . . . For those who enjoy classical music, the Music Department of the Los Angeles Public Library offers noonday concerts from Monday through Friday beginning at 12 noon with recorded music and concluding with the radio classical hour, 2:15-3:15. Three times a week—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—at one o'clock the A Cappella Choir under Hal D. Crain (a Southern California Music Project) will sing madrigals and folk songs for a half-hour period. These programs are held in the lecture room on the first floor.

\* \* \*

*Society for the Aid of the Sightless*, Salt Lake City, Utah. This society, an auxiliary of the L. D. S. (Mormon) Church, was organized in 1904. Its first venture was a printing plant at Provo, Utah, to produce a monthly magazine. This periodical, "The Messenger to the Sightless," is sent to any interested reader in any part of the



world. It contains chiefly items of religious nature and inspirational matter. . . . In November, 1936, the Society appointed Miss Irene Jones home teacher for members and non-members of the Church in Utah and surrounding states. Miss Jones was previously a home teacher for the Utah Commission for the Blind. She is a graduate of the Utah School for the Blind, the L. D. S. Business College, and has had educational and social work at the University of Utah. Although most of her teaching is done in and about Salt Lake City, she makes frequent trips to other sections upon call. . . . The Society has printed the Book of Mormon in Braille, Grade Two, and has placed copies in most of the leading libraries of the country. In cooperation with the Utah Commission, the Society is planning to print the Deseret Hymn Book in Braille, with words and music.

\* \* \*

*National Society for the Prevention of Blindness*, New York, N. Y. Blasting caps and detonating fuses are dangerous playthings for children and may cause blindness or serious eye injuries, it is pointed out by Mrs. Eleanor Brown Merrill, executive director of this Society, in a warning issued recently concerning this hazard. "Many boys and some girls have been killed and many have been blinded or otherwise seriously injured in playing with or handling explosive caps," said Mrs. Merrill. "We are glad to cooperate with the Institute of Makers of Explosives in its educational campaign to reduce accidents of this kind. These accidents begin to increase in early Spring and continue to increase until a high point is reached in July and August. Farmers, construction forces, mine workers and railway men who use explosives

can help save children from death or serious injury by storing blasting caps and fuses under lock and key, and by being careful not to discard such caps where children may get them."

\* \* \*

*Women's Traffic Club*, Tulsa, Oklahoma. This club, composed of women connected with the traffic departments of various transportation companies and industrial concerns, has as its objective "helping the blind." A program dealing with this subject was presented at a recent meeting of the club. J. Derrell Smith, placement agent, Oklahoma State Commission for the Adult Blind, was the principal speaker. His talk dealt with his work with the blind and the various ways in which they had become self-sustaining. Miss Callie Jordan, Mr. Smith's secretary, brought her Braille shorthand machine and took dictation from the speaker and various members of the club. Miss Jordan gave each member a souvenir of the evening by writing their name, address and the alphabet in Braille. Several piano and accordion selections were played by Ed Thalman, blind, who now operates a cigar stand in the Tulsa Police Station. Mrs. Thalman and Edith Herring, a blind girl of Tulsa, in whom the Women's Traffic Club has taken an interest, were also guests.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind*, Watertown, Mass. The Map-of-the-Month, which has been published for some time by the WPA Project in cooperation with Perkins Institution, will appear hereafter directly from the Howe Memorial Press, as the WPA Project has closed for a time. Selecting the map and

(Continued to Page 19)



FEW OF HIS CLIENTS DISCOVER THAT HE  
IS BLIND

*(Continued from Page 4)*

on New Year's Day, 1932. Another was the Max Baer boxing bout in Reno. He followed such events through the sounds made by the crowd, as well as descriptions given him, and it was logical to turn this faculty to his approach in selling.

The hardest prospect is the one who will not talk, but that fellow is probably as much a problem to the sighted salesman, and is fortunately not common. From the tone of the voice, as well as what is said, and from the handclasp and general atmosphere, the blind salesman gets a good mental picture of the person he is trying to sell.

Life insurance today is not what it was yesterday, when many people had to be convinced that protection was necessary, and often associated insurance with death. The fear that if you took a policy you were likely to die soon was a real superstition in the early days of insurance.

Today, insurance is better understood, and is taken not only for protection of the family, but for investment, and to protect estates against heavy inheritance taxes. It is a familiar tool of business, and the man who sells it has become, not so much a persuader, as an advisor, showing how this tool can be applied to many situations.

Sight or no sight, the beginnings on "cold turkey" are bound to be hard, until a few sales are made as the result of many calls. Then, as time goes on, the salesman is often called back to advise on new problems that have arisen for his policyholders.

Thanking a business man the other

day for giving him a large policy, Kass was gratified to hear his client say:

"Don't thank me! You have given me excellent service, and I am glad to have your advice. I should thank you instead."

That kind of experience comes once in a while, and is reassuring and heartening.

Kass lives in Beverly Hills, and has a desk in the Southern California branch of his company, but is outdoors most of the time, traveling to get business. He often goes around alone, riding the buses, using a cane to guide him. In keeping appointments where paper work is necessary, Mrs. Kass goes along, driving him in their car.

Winning membership in one of the company's clubs brings a trip for both of them to a sales meeting, this year to Victoria, British Columbia. Besides the honor, and the opportunity to see new country, there is the opportunity to meet company officers, and the best salesmen in the business, and get many helpful suggestions.

His chief regret in blindness is, that he lost so much time adapting himself to his new circumstances. It should not have taken ten years to discover that he had abilities left, and abundant opportunities.

For that reason, he has been keen about advising and encouraging others who have been blinded, giving them the benefit of his experience, and pointing out short cuts in making their adjustments.

Mr. Kass has taken an interest in the work of the Braille Institute, especially such concrete projects as the Braille edition of "Applied Harmony" by Carolyn Alchin, a book badly needed by the large number of blind who find their opportunities in music. While



this publication was being financed, he organized a concert for the Beverly Hills Lions' Club, raising a sizeable amount of money for the project.

#### INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

(Continued from Page 17)

editing the text will continue to be done by Mr. E. J. Waterhouse of the Perkins' staff. Preparation of the map and distribution will be undertaken by the Howe Memorial Press. . . Lawrence Thompson, Perkins '34, and Harvard '38, who is an active agent of the New England Magazine Agency for the Blind, reported recently making 3,000 telephone calls, soliciting subscriptions with, he states, "good results." . . . John Morrison, a post-graduate student, is taking a special course this term at the Nylin School of Swedish Massage. Six Upper School pupils are taking a course in massage theory and practice in the Physiotherapy Department.

\* \* \*

*Tasmanian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb*, Hobart. The work of the blind welfare department has been carried on with a reduced staff, viz., one sighted and two partial-sighted part-time assistants. Very creditable specimens of tatting, tapestry, knitting in wool, and cotton lace, hemming and machining were among the articles sold during the year. . . . Cookery lessons have been given to two girls from the Blind School and a greater proficiency in the methods that go to make up efficiency in the kitchen has been noted from month to month. . . The usual work of visiting the sick, providing escort for the lonely in pleasant outings, arrangements for

operations and care during treatment, and service for the bed-ridden patients and inmates of the St. Johns Park Rest Home, or the Consumptive Sanatorium, has been carried on and extended. . . . The spirit of friendship which governs all activities in the department makes for mutual pleasure in the broad arena of the Tasmanian blind community where ages vary from one year to ninety-four and the courage and thankfulness of the blind population is an unfailing source of inspiration.

\* \* \*

*Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind*, Columbia, Penna. In the decision handed down by the Dauphin County Court on February 23, 1940, in the test case brought by the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind questioning the power and authority of the State Department of Public Assistance to demand so-called \$500 Fraud Bonds from applicants for the blind pension and from those already receiving the blind pension, the court ruled against the Federation and in favor of the State Department of Public Assistance. Accordingly, all applicants for blind pensions must sign these bonds. The Federation will seek further redress in this matter through legislative action. . . . In the test case brought by the Federation co-jointly with the County of Philadelphia, appealing to the court for redress for the blind in county homes and institutions (not criminal) against the ruling of the State Board of Public Assistance that they should be denied their blind pensions, the Federation was the victor. This means these blind will now be in a position to pay their way as they go, whether it be in an institution or private home.



BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.: ITS  
INCEPTION, EXPANSION AND OBJECTIVE

(Continued from Page 8)

advantage over the other method. The plates can be filed for future use with the result that subsequent editions can be published merely at the cost of printing and binding. Constant improvements have been made in the Institute's Moon equipment and the standard of workmanship in its Moon publications, both books and magazines, is now held in high esteem by Moon readers, as well as by agencies in the United States interested in that field of service.

Early in 1933, when literature for the blind on phonograph records, styled talking books, was still in the pioneer stages, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., offered a constant-speed principle that would permit 90 minutes of reading matter on one 12-inch disc, and 2 hrs. and 20 minutes on a 16-inch disc. In June 1934, this device was demonstrated to the blind and workers for the blind in Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Boston, Washington, D. C., and at the convention of Instructors of the Blind meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Wherever the method was *thoroughly* examined and *accurately tested*, it was commended highly, and with the exception of one of the demonstrations given in New York City it was pronounced a revolutionary step forward in the field of voice recording.

While in Washington, D. C., a demonstration was given at the Library of Congress, witnessed by the late Dr. H. H. B. Meyer, Director, Project, Books for the Blind, and the Honorable Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress. This demonstration was so satisfactory that Dr. Meyer agreed to purchase rec-

ords made by that process for the Library of Congress whenever the Braille Institute could show that as few as 300 play-back machines were in the possession of blind users.

Due to conditions at that time, chiefly financial, and to the fact that the present talking book machine, developed by the American Foundation for the Blind, had been officially endorsed by some agencies and was well on the way to completion, it seemed futile to proceed farther in the endeavor to give the benefit of this economical device to the nation's blind. So the Braille Institute abandoned, temporarily at least, the field of recorded literature to devote its resources to other projects equally vital.

A genuine spirit of cooperation with all organizations and individuals engaged in welfare work for the blind, always has influenced the policy of the Braille Institute of America, to the end that duplication of effort at the expense of the public, may be avoided. The expansion of its activities has been and will continue to be along the lines of the best practice in work for the blind and it will conform to standards set by all reputable agencies for the blind. In its literary service, no better proof of such cooperation could be cited than the cooperative spirit which exists between it and the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky, in the joint publication of Webster's Students Dictionary in self-pronouncing Braille.

Under this plan the two institutions collaborated in the production of the stereotype plates. From these plates the American Printing House will furnish editions of the dictionary to the schools for the blind in the United

(Continued to Page 21)



States and its territories. The plates will then be, and in fact now are, used by the Braille Institute to print and distribute editions to libraries and institutions, private and public, at the cost of production; and to the individual blind at prices below cost to the extent funds make possible.

In addition, the Braille Institute has, in several instances, made available to the American Printing House, stereotype plates to be used by it in printing titles for distribution to the schools, titles of educational value, sponsored originally by the Braille Institute. The result of this cooperation is the saving of thousands of dollars of private and public funds which might otherwise have been spent in needless duplication.

Today, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., with headquarters in Los Angeles, is planning, as rapidly as possible, further to broaden its activities in all directions of welfare service, that it may in time actually prove to be a lighthouse to the blind on the Pacific Coast and west of the Rocky Mountains. Work for the nation's blind east of the Mississippi is well organized and ably conducted by many well established agencies, private and public. But in this great nation, in spite of streamlined transportation, distance is still a barrier to welfare work for the blind, and it always will be.

There are types of welfare service which can be administered nationally and effectively by organizations at a distance, and in these respects, the Braille Institute of America is con-

stantly and increasingly rendering nationwide service. But the services most vitally needed, such as social and economic security and the great need of finding and furnishing employment for the blind, are necessarily problems of a local nature which require personal supervision and which can, therefore, be administered successfully only by institutions in the region served.

Therefore, there is room for and there should be maintained in the West, an institution adequately equipped and efficiently organized to cope intelligently with all the problems which have to do with the social and economic welfare of the blind in every walk of life. The trustees and members of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., feel confident that it has already demonstrated its ability to qualify for this high calling. In this respect, where we may lack in experience, we can and will profit by the experience of the older, well established blind welfare agencies in the East, especially the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the New York Association for the Blind, whose functions and service are quite similar to those which should be inaugurated in the West.

The Institute's objective, today, as from the inception, is to develop ways and means whereby the employable blind of the West may have opportunities to support themselves, at least in part, to the end that they, as well as the unemployable blind, may be liberated from the bondage of limitation and lack occasioned by the loss of sight.





## "Hog Killin' Time"

The Van Nuys Lions Club will celebrate a "hog killin' time" April 29, when the proceeds from three Mexican pig banks, filled by the members, will be turned over to J. Robert Atkinson, managing director of the Braille Institute of America.

In addition to many individuals, several clubs, sororities and business organizations have requested these pig banks which are now displayed in some prominent place to receive their daily rations.

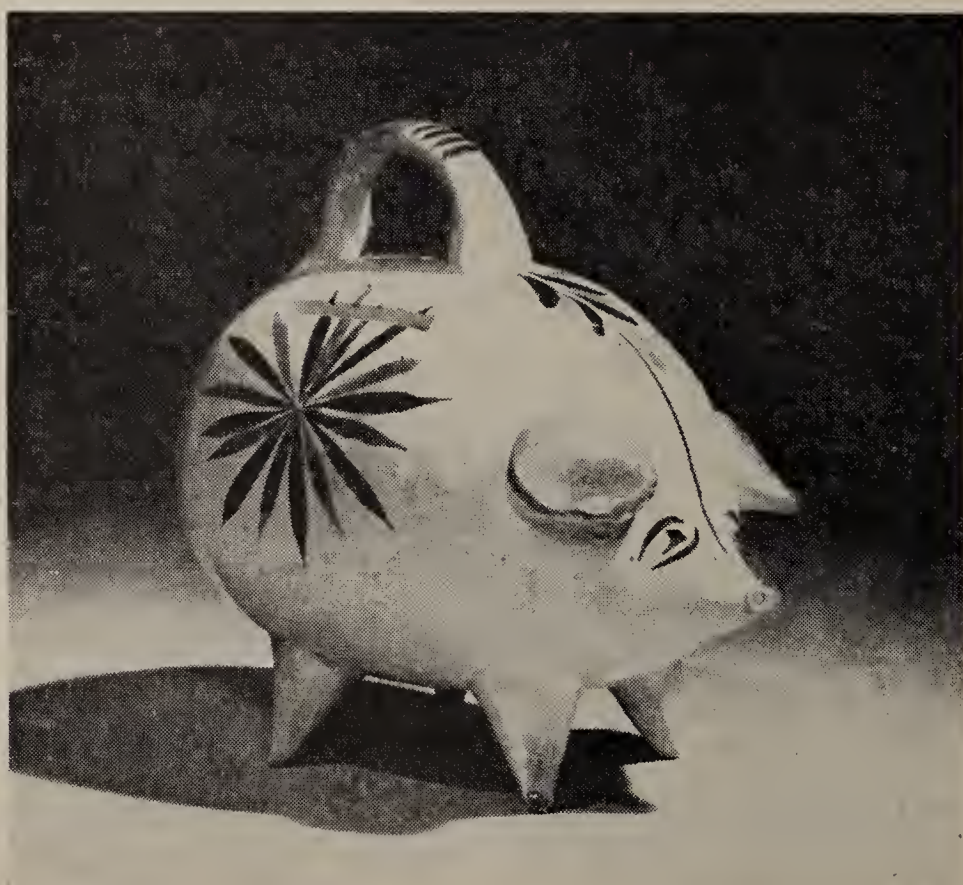
Proceeds from a bank which was placed in a desert resort hotel by the originator of the plan, Mrs. Edith W. Hughes, totaled over twelve dollars.

Another interesting story about the "pig bank" comes from a school teacher in a California town whose class has been studying a unit on

"communication." In their study they touched on the subject of Braille. The teacher showed them the January issue of *Light* and they saw the article about the penny banks.

As a part of their activity work, this class of Mexican girls decided to buy a pig and fill it. Each girl is earning the money, hoping to have it full before school is out. They plant to have a little party and each will tell how she has earned her money. As one girl wrote for the school paper, "I tend to the feeding of the pig and when it is fattened, will send it to market, to the Braille Institute."

For those who would like to adopt the slogan, "a penny a day drives darkness away," the Braille Institute will be glad to send a Mexican pottery pig bank designed to hold 365 pennies or more.



Braille Institute Photo

This pig is designed to hold 365 pennies for the blind.



EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 13)

friends may establish trust funds with the Foundation as permanent endowments for the Braille Institute, to be effective immediately, or at any given time stipulated by the donors.

For more than twenty years the Braille Institute has been financed largely through voluntary contributions received from the public. During these years the Institute has not only broadened its welfare service to the blind of the community and nation, but it has also been building an institution on a permanent foundation. Through the acquisition of endowments it will stand on the Pacific Coast as a powerful lighthouse for all who are navigating the dark waters of physical blindness, long after any person now associated with it is active in its administration.

We feel that all friends of the blind and of the Braille Institute will be glad to learn that to subserve its program for the building of permanent endowments the Institute may benefit by the association and counsel of a sound, efficient, long-established financial institution such as the California Community Foundation.

Should any of our members or contributors be interested in this plan, as we feel sure some of them will be, further information will be furnished as to just how trusts established for the Braille Institute will be managed by the Foundation. This plan is flexible enough to meet consistently the requirements of all donors.



"California Reporter"

For a long time the Braille Institute has felt that a bulletin in Braille, issued regularly to readers of the State, might be very beneficial, if properly edited.

At a recent meeting of the board of trustees this plan was unanimously approved, beginning with an issue for May 1940.

The name "California Reporter" was selected as appropriate for such a publication. Briefly, its objective is "to issue authentic information important to the welfare of California's blind."

Executive heads of agencies engaged in welfare service for the blind are invited to use the *Reporter* in presenting in condensed form such information as may be important to the social and economic welfare of the blind.

The editors reserve the right to reject any material submitted and to cut copy whenever space demands.

The *Reporter* will be furnished free to any Braille reader residing in the State. All are invited to send names and addresses of Braille readers whom they know to be interested. Readers are also invited to send questions or to suggest topics on which they wish information.

ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRaille INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing)	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 11.....	.12
5 lbs.....	.50
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 12.....	.15
5 lbs.....	.65
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)....	.15
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking.....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men.....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus....	2.00
Hill String Lineguide (for longhand writing).....	2.50



## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

*(Continued from Page 11)*

dare tell the kids that because they would think I was a softy, for they say they hate school. I don't want to be a softy, but I like school." She is really a Camp Fire baby as from the time she was very small two Camp Fire Girls in the neighborhood have had complete charge of Sally Ann in her play time.

\* \* \*

One of the most popular features on the radio today is "Alec Templeton Time" featuring the blind pianist and composer. He is reported to be the highest salaried British stage performer appearing outside of England today. His brilliant, biting satire — which spares no one—puts the piano to new uses. With five notes, given to him by his audience, he works up his theme and elaborates until it sounds like something one of the old masters might have written for a symphony orchestra. His swing classics include "Bach Goes to Town," "Mendelssohn Mows 'em Down," "Mozart Matriculates," and "Haydn Takes to Ridin'."

\* \* \*

At the University of Southern California this year, Dan H. Kruckeberg, 23-year-old blind student, is studying law. He graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles last June, after a four year course, and is determined to finish his legal training at USC in the usual period of three years. He believes law furnishes him greater opportunity than does any other profession. He is assisted by three readers, also students at the school, but relies principally on his memory. He is able to brief legal cases mentally and seldom finds it necessary for his readers to repeat decisions and prin-

ciples more than three times. For recreation he enjoys dancing, walks regularly, attends motion pictures and plays golf. The sound of the driven ball and the vibration of the club handle usually enables him to call his golf shots. During his four years at UCLA he missed only three home football games.

## I AM NOT DEAF — I AM NOT BLIND

[Reprinted from the Bulletin Board, published monthly in Braille by the American League for the Deaf-Blind, Francis William Bates, Executive Director.]

My friend and I sat down alone,  
He said to me in solemn tone;  
"I wonder if you really mind,  
The misery of being blind?"

I did not answer right away,  
And so my friend went on to say:  
"And isn't there a sort of fear  
When one is deaf and cannot hear?"

I knew my friend was being kind,  
And so I answered "I don't mind—  
I do not hear the human voice,  
But in my heart I can rejoice.

"I cannot see the twinkling stars,  
Nor fathom out the planet Mars;  
But in my heart I find the sight  
That gives me strength to see God's might.

"And when I tune the heart-strings true,  
I hear the kindly words from you;  
And so you see I do not fear,  
For God has made my heart to hear."

My friend turned smilingly to me  
And said "I wish that I could see  
With vision God has given you,  
And hear the wondrous tidings too."

We sat in silence hand in hand,  
And then he said "I understand,  
I know now why you do not mind,  
For you can see, you are not blind!"

My friend is right, we all can see  
The wonders of God's Majesty;  
We are not deaf for we can hear,  
The heart responds for God is near!"

—FRANCIS WILLIAM BATES.



### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

### FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

### CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of ..... (or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of ..... 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the <sup>testator</sup> as and for a Codicil to <sup>his</sup> last Will dated.....  
<sub>testatrix</sub> <sub>her</sub>

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at <sup>his</sup> request and in <sup>his</sup> presence, and in the presence of each other, <sub>her</sub> <sub>her</sub>  
have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....



# YOUR OPPORTUNITY...

To assist the blind in their struggle for self-support. Often a loan of \$25 or \$50 is sufficient to give a blind person a new lease on life.

To give assistance to the needy blind who are not eligible for governmental aid under Federal and State laws. Approximately 60 per cent of the nation's 130,000 blind lost their sight after 50 years of age—beyond the age of rehabilitation for self-support.

To help maintain the Braille Institute Library. This free lending library serves the blind of California and Arizona—a territory assigned to it by the Library of Congress as one of the regional libraries to distribute literature furnished by the United States government. Such literature circulates through the mail free of postage, however the maintenance cost of the library, approximating \$5,000 a year, is borne entirely by the Braille Institute out of general funds or from contributions designated for that purpose.

To provide funds for the distribution of Webster's Students Dictionary in Braille, bound in 32 volumes, the cost of which approximates \$96. Special price to the blind, \$40 postpaid.

To assist with the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, free to the blind or at prices they may be able to pay below the non-profit production cost.

To provide funds with which to complete dies and jigs for the Braille Institute's portable Braille writer. Sixty-three of these have been completed at a cost of \$2,510.16. Twenty-nine must yet be manufactured, the estimated cost of which approximates \$700. The writer will be marketed to the blind at cost, no charge to be included therein for development of dies and jigs.

To furnish free or subsidized subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine issued to the blind at a special rate of \$3 a year, the cost being about \$6.

Contributions are always needed to maintain these activities. Kindly return the attached coupon with your contribution and you will receive immediately a receipt therefor and be listed among the good friends who have made possible our twenty-one years of welfare service to the blind.

.....  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to take this opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$..... to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, Inc. • LOS ANGELES

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Vol. XIII, No. 1

October, 1940



*no July issue published*

## BEACON LIGHTS ALONG MY PATHWAY

By NAOMI IRENE DRAKE

"**A**ND the earth was without form and was void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said let there be light; and there was light. And God divided the light from the darkness, and God called the light day, and the darkness He called night."

The science of physics teaches us that darkness is the absence of light—that light coming either directly or indirectly from the sun is necessary in order to dispel the darkness.

In infancy, I was destined to be deprived of that great privilege of living in a visible world. The curtain was partially drawn in babyhood leaving me in a world of shadows and outlines. For about three years I lived thus. During that period of time, the greatest impression I received came from viewing the moon. There it was, in the eastern sky, a huge, bright, round ball of fire, shining from the reflected light of the sun which had disappeared

below the western horizon. But even that impression has vanished into a mere shell of a dim memory which has faded with the passing of time and finally has been enveloped in a shroud of mystery and vagueness. For the partially drawn curtain made a complete drop, chasing even the shadows away and closing from my view forever the visual world of light.

But I was young, and,—fortunately perhaps,—did not fully realize my loss. The adjustments and adaptations which were mine to make came readily in those early molding years of childhood. However, the whole process of living is a matter of adjustments and adaptations for each individual.

There are many who think that I am living in a world of darkness and imagine that life has nothing to offer me. But to me, there is no darkness, and life with everything to offer is just waiting to be lived. "For God said let there be light"—and there is light.



He has placed along my pathway many beacon lights which have guided me with safety thus far, and flooded my life with joy and happiness.

In the book of Isaiah we read: "And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them and not forsake them."

Today this prophecy is being fulfilled. However, before the eighteenth century, persons without eyesight faced a very dark future,—not only physically, but mentally and spiritually as well. A blind person was considered a disgrace in those early days and cast out into the cold world without education or means, either to beg for a living or perish by the wayside. Finally orders were established in convents and monasteries where the blind were cloistered away with no outside associates or companions.

During the eighteenth century, however, a few people began to recognize the possibility of educating the blind. After much effort, Valentin Haüy, a Frenchman, assisted by Maria von Paradis, a blind musician, founded the first school for the blind in Paris in 1784. The first American school for the blind was founded at Boston in 1832 by Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe. Only a few students attended these early schools. The curriculum which they followed consisted of music, rug weaving and basket making. Thus the first great beacon light was hung in a world of darkness, for from that small beginning, a world-wide educational program for the blind has developed.

Today in this country we have a school for the blind in each state of the Union. Literary subjects, music, home economics, typing, athletics, piano tuning, rug and basket weaving and many other vocational subjects are taught. The aim of the educator is to make available every opportunity possible to the blind student, enabling him to grow mentally, spiritually, socially and physically. The chief purpose of his education is that of fitting him to return to his community where he can live as a respectable citizen; to make him an asset to society rather than a liability.

Heading the list of beacon lights which have illuminated my pathway is that of my home. To any child, home life is of importance. To the child without sight, the attention and training he receives from his parents has an untold influence on his future. As I think back over my childhood life before entering school, it seems I led a very normal life. My parents neither pampered and petted me, nor did they neglect me. They gave me much of their time, explaining many things to me. Always they kept before me the idea that I must do for myself.

As other children learned to dress and feed themselves, so did I. I was encouraged to play with other children. I was urged to do little tasks about the house and farm. And if my parents shielded me and kept me from doing some things because of my lack of eyesight, I was unaware of it. This is a very important factor in helping a child without sight make his adjustments to life. Because of my training at home, I found life at school much less difficult when I entered.

As I began my life in the school for



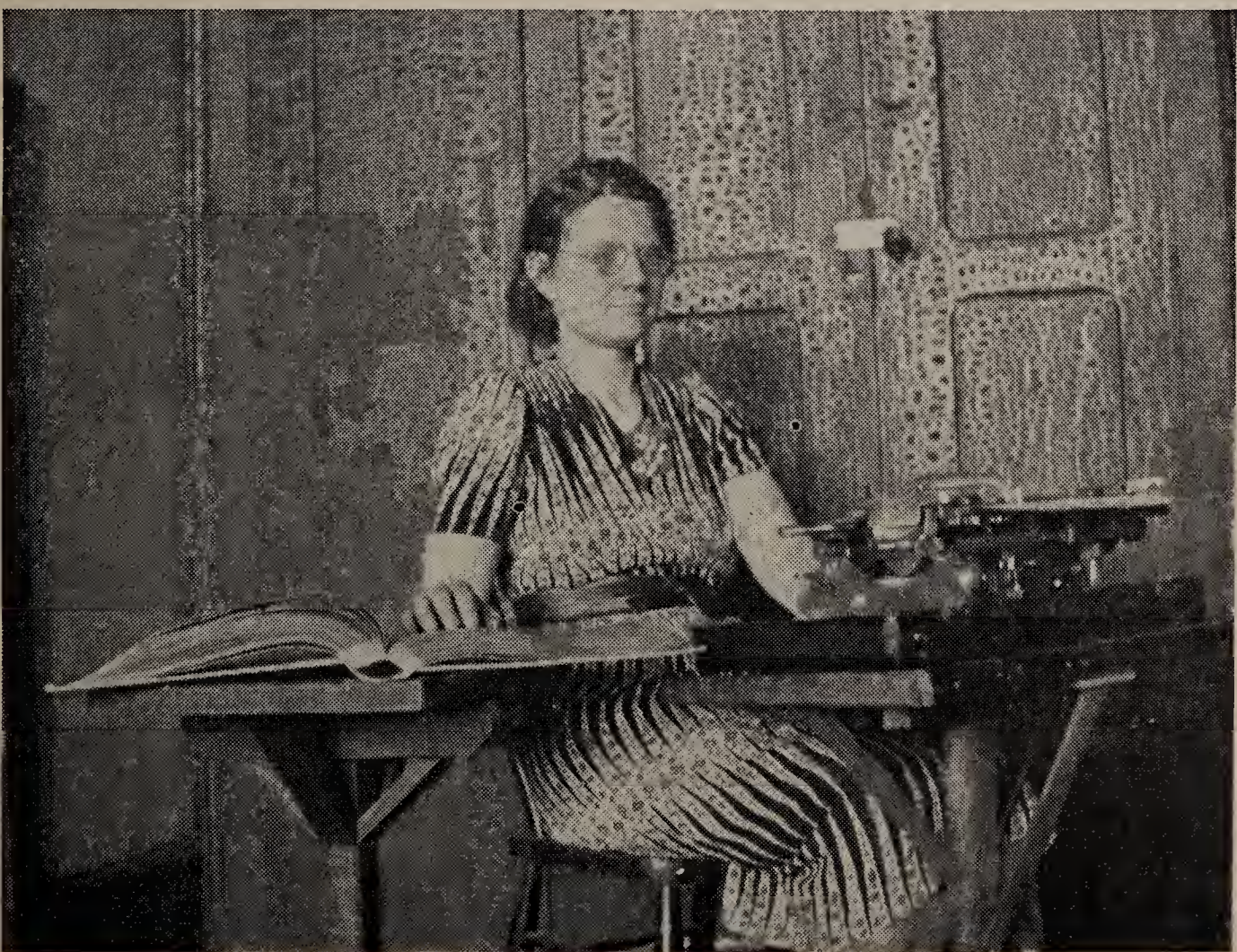
the blind at Vinton, Iowa, the beacon light of which I was immediately made aware, was that of touch, for I had to learn to read with my fingers. In the early schools for the blind, the greatest handicap encountered was the absence of a method whereby the students might learn to read. In 1829, however, Louis Braille,—a blind Frenchman, twenty years of age,—perfected a dot system which has been universally adopted for touch reading.

And so I obtained practically all of my knowledge through my fingers. Not only in reading, but in many other ways has the sense of touch played a great part in my life. Through my hands do I determine the likeness of things. My hands have been my guide in rug and basket weaving, sewing, in the work about the house, in fact almost everything that I do. Where most people depend upon their eyes to guide them, the sense of touch has been my aid.

When I entered college, I was made very conscious of the beacon light of sound. For as my fingers took me through the grades and high school, my ears took me through college,—for there I had to gain most of my knowledge by listening to others read. Yes, my ears are as essential as my hands. With them I distinguish the voices of people. My ears tell me what is happening around me, and it is very little they miss.

By listening to the radio, I can keep up with current events, drama, music, — both popular and classical, and I can hear discussions and reviews of some of the latest books. The radio in itself is a bright beacon light in my life. The information which I am constantly gaining through my ears is inestimable. Let it suffice to say that a world without sound would be pretty empty.

To me one of the most fascinating beacon lights is literature. Customs, times, places, human nature—in fact



NAOMI IRENE DRAKE



life in all of its phases is depicted. In studying literature, one develops an understanding and sympathy for people and their problems which cannot exist otherwise. Fortunately, some of the world's best literature appears in Braille. And today many of the newer books are coming out in Braille so that we, too, can know what is taking place in the literary world. There are twenty-seven libraries in the United States from which we can borrow Braille books that go through the mail postage free. Besides books, we have many Braille magazines which keep us informed on world events, as well as what is being done for and by the blind throughout the country. The Braille Mirror, a monthly publication, quotes as its object the following:

"To make Braille literature a mirror of life; to keep this mirror clean, that it may reflect the beautiful, the good and the true; in social, political, civil and economic reform."

"The Reader's Digest" is one of the popular current magazines which is put in Braille. How thankful I am that I can read and have literature available in Braille!

The beacon light of friendship is of intrinsic value in my life. Friends make life worth while for everyone, but to a person without sight, the companionship and association of friends is of paramount importance. In the larger towns and cities of the nation friendship leagues are being organized for the blind in order that they might have an opportunity of becoming acquainted and forming friendships with seeing people. The part my friends have had in making life interesting for me is immeasurable. I am grateful for all of them.

The latest and most thrilling beacon light along my pathway thus far is my independence—the declaration of which was signed very recently at the Seeing Eye, Morristown, N. J.—the independence hall of the blind. At this place, I met Diana, my guide dog and companion. Though I have not had her home a month yet, already a new life is being unfolded before me. Now I can go and come at my own choosing.

For years I have possessed a burning desire for freedom—the lack of which was the one thing that stilted my life and made it incomplete. Then one day I read an account in one of my Braille magazines giving an account of a man and his guide dog. From that moment I started hoping, planning and dreaming — backing these hopes, plans and dreams with prayers. My dream has come true and my prayer is answered. With Diana by my side, my horizon is broadened, the expansion of life is widened; now there are so many new possibilities to develop, more challenges to meet, and great vistas to explore.

The brightest beacon light of them all is my Christian faith. It has been the one stabilizing factor in my life. When all else fails, I know that the One who understandeth all things will never fail. This faith has been encouraged both at home and at school. When I was in school at Vinton, the day was begun with a short chapel service where hymns were sung, prayer offered, the Bible read and an inspirational talk given. Everyone was urged to attend the church of his own choice. By reading the Bible, which has been put in Braille, I find that it



adds much to my life, enriching it and making it really worth living.

Thus the darkness along my pathway has been dispelled. The beacon lights of home, education, touch, sound, literature, friendship, independence and Christian faith have unfolded many possibilities for me. They have given me the urge to press ever onward and

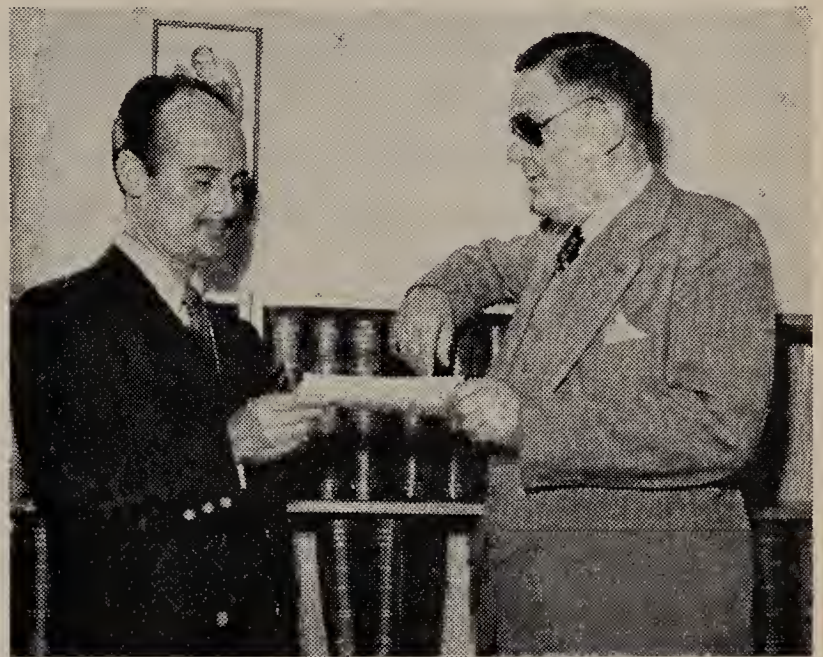
onward seeking the better things and striving to live a well-rounded normal life.

That the world may be a better world because I have lived is one of my principal hopes. That the little things which I have accomplished may in some way inspire others to greater achievements is my constant prayer.

## CHECK FOR CHARITY

Who hasn't complained about paying to check his hat or coat at a restaurant? Often, we have heard the plaint of how many times a hat has been paid for—just for ten cents here and a quarter there.

Don, the Beachcomber, has very definite ideas about hat-check concessions. But first, Don's place in Hollywood—as well as the one in Chicago—is well-known to the connoisseur of fine foods. Here you may order a rare dish from the South Seas, or the most delightful and delectable Chinese dinner outside of Shanghai.



Don presents check for \$191.10, contents of the Braille box at the Chicago Beachcomber's, to J. Robert Atkinson, managing director.

You can check your hat—coat and stick, too. And when retrieving them from the courteous attendant *there is no tipping*. If you wish, however, you may make a donation to your favorite charity—the Braille Institute, for instance.

Attractive containers are displayed for the Red Cross, the Children's Hospital and the Braille Institute. You drop the coin in the box and go merrily on your way, feeling all the better after your fine dinner and your contribution to a worthy charity—instead of a tip for checking your hat.



Patron contributes to the Braille Institute's box at The Beachcomber's, Hollywood.



# A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

The past twenty years have marked great strides forward in the literary culture of the blind. The writer lost his eyesight nearly thirty years ago. In order to satisfy his craving for literature of the kind he wished to study, to make up for lost opportunities when he might have read more by sight, he mastered four of the five systems of raised print then in common use.

But even then there was a dearth of books available to the blind and only one monthly magazine published in America. For his own self-advancement, he transcribed by hand several works of a scientific nature — an achievement that took nearly four years to accomplish.

This change for the better has come about gradually, — so much so that many are apt to lose sight of it. Compare the dearth of a few years ago with the following possibility of today.

Today the Braille reader may enjoy in his home good books of all kinds borrowed free from regional libraries throughout the nation, 26 in number. Uncle Sam sends these books to him free of postage, and he returns them without cost.

Others, a little more fortunate, may at last have a dictionary at their command, without waiting hours and sometimes days to get the definition of a word, its correct pronunciation, or a

synonym for it. Webster's abridgment of 57,000 words in self-pronouncing Braille is available. If that doesn't give him all he wants, Fernald's "Synonyms, Antonyms and Prepositions," in nine Braille volumes, is at his disposal. As a further aid, he has "The Miller System of Correct English," in four volumes.

Indeed, the full gamut of latest fiction and non-fiction works has been placed at his disposal in Braille and on talking book records by the Library of Congress through a Federal appropriation for the purpose. So current is some of this literature that books of the month appear in Braille the very month following their release to dealers.

With these, the Bible, works on commercial and business law, insurance underwriting, journalism and salesmanship, not to mention many other titles of a vocational and educational nature, he is justified in beginning to feel that his literary opportunities are about as much as he is able to embrace.

In addition, his periodical reading matter is ample. He may have any number of current secular or religious magazines published in Braille weekly, monthly and quarterly. Yes, Braille readers in the United States today have a wealth of knowledge literally at their fingertips.





# "BRAILLE"—WHAT IS IT?

THE TERM "Braille" began to gain prominence in Europe in 1854. Strangely enough, despite its superiority over all other systems then experimentally used, it took officials in work for the blind twenty-five years to recognize this superiority, after Louis Braille designed the system in 1829.

Its founder never lived to see the fruition of his hope—the adoption of the Braille system by his own government. Louis Braille passed away in 1852. France adopted the system in 1854.

But it required only six years after France's adoption of the system for a "show-me" Mis-

sourian to recognize the merits of Braille's design whereby the blind could read and write. This Missourian was Dr. Simon Pollock, trustee of the Missouri School for the Blind who persuaded that school to adopt the system in 1860, slightly modified from the code-form used in Europe.

In spite of the fact that the Braille system has now been used in America in one form or another for many years, the public generally is unfamiliar with

it and its correct pronunciation. This was conspicuously so twenty-one years ago when the word "Braille" was given prominence in the title "Braille Institute of America, Inc."

Since then much progress has been made in making the word better understood. But still there is room for

improvement. Quite often yet, visitors to the Braille Institute, when greeting its managing director, address him as "Mr. Braille." Usually they pronounce the word as though it were spelled "Brai-ley."

Louis Braille, founder of the system bearing his name, was born near Paris, France.

The BRAILLE ALPHABET								THE BRAILLE CELL	
								1.....	4
								2.....	5
								3.....	6
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h		
i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p		
q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x		
y	z	and	the	of	with	for	this		

In French, the pronunciation is *bry-yeh*. But the correct Anglicized pronunciation as officially used in America and all English-speaking nations is the same as if the word were spelled "Brail," with a macron over the a. Originally, it was the name of a man; now it is commonly known and used as the name of a system of printing read by the blind, formed from all the possible combinations of six dots resembling the domino six.





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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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In Donora, Pennsylvania, Clellen McMullen, 53-year-old mechanic, uses his fingers to "see" what is wrong with motors. McMullen has been blind since 1913, and although he is now an expert auto mechanic, he did not learn the mechanism of a car until after he lost his sight. An explosion in a steel plant where he was working as a mechanic cost him his eyesight, but before the bandages were removed from his eyes, he had purchased a second-hand car and taken it apart. That and his work on neighbors' cars enabled him to gain a detailed knowledge of the workings of automobiles. He now has a garage of his own and is an expert auto mechanic. "I see just as much as others," McMullen explains, "except that mine are all mental pictures. Instead of my eyes, my fingers convey thoughts to my brain. When I raise a hood to 'look' at an engine what I hear and feel helps me determine the trouble and I see it as clearly as anyone."

\* \* \*

In Light for April, 1939, there was a story about Archie King of La Habra, California, who was raising rabbits to help him through Fullerton Junior College. Last June, Archie King graduated with the highest honors. He had received "straight A's" for his two years and was awarded a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Southern California.

"How the Butterfly Got Its Name," was the title of the prize-winning short story in a contest sponsored by the Braille Searchlight Magazine. A gentle fantasy on nature, it was written by Marion Anderson, 18-year-old Seattle girl, who has never seen. With the prize money, Miss Anderson intends to purchase a cello, for she is interested in music.

\* \* \*

To Manhattan recently journeyed Dr. James Thomas Clack and his wife to appear on a radio program. Dr. and Mrs. Clack live in Wadley, Alabama, with about 525 other folks. One day in 1914, Dr. Clack realized he was losing his sight and he figured his career was ended. But his patients and his wife had other ideas. On the next call, Mrs. Clack went with him. She examined the patient's symptoms as he diagnosed them. When a wound needed stitching, Mrs. Clack went at it like a neat housewife with a torn shirt. Invariably the doctor pronounced the result a better job than he could do himself. According to Time, Dr. Clack has been president of the Randolph County Medical Society, is now a director of the Bank of Wadley, chairman of the Southern Union College's board of trustees. More than 1,500 people in and around Wadley are said to have been born under the care of Dr. Clack and his seeing wife.



When Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Peterson of Chicago bought their own home, they decided to install the latest modern equipment that was safe and automatic, because Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are both blind. They live alone

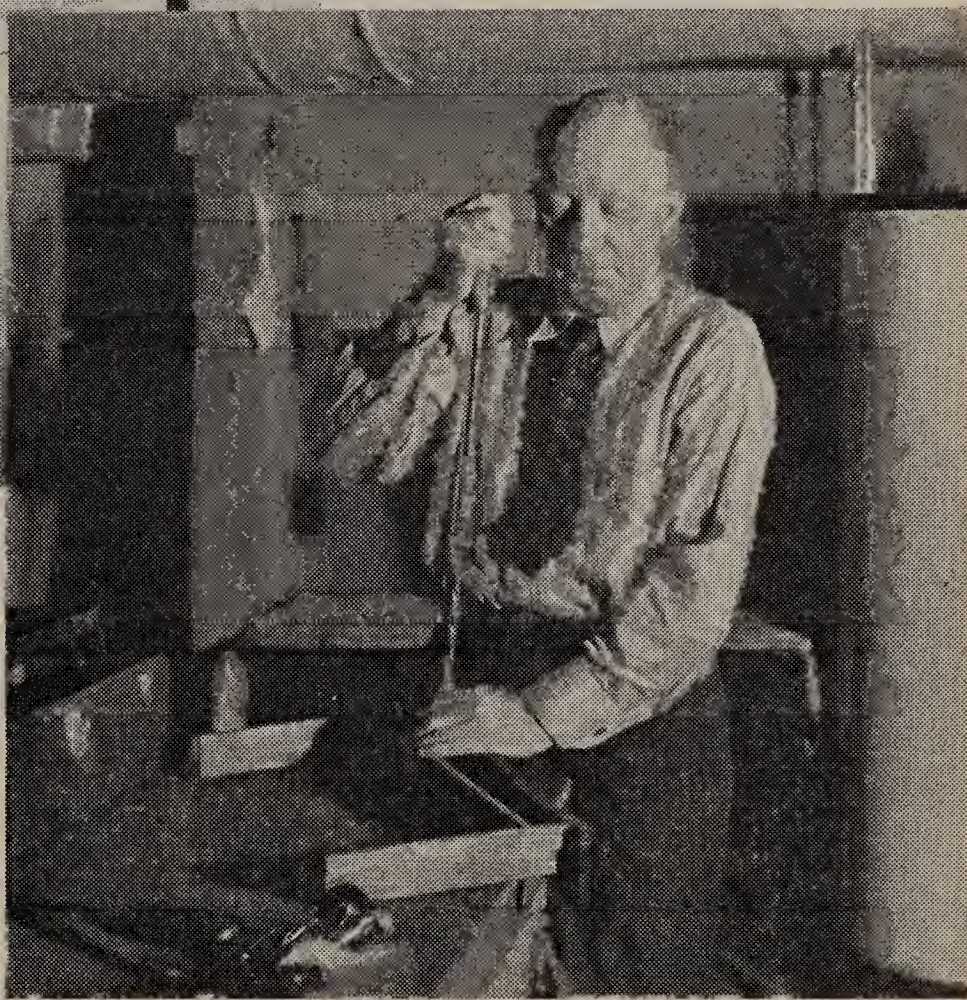


At Home—Mrs. Peterson in her spotless kitchen.

and maintain their five-room bungalow entirely without help. Mrs. Peterson is a meticulous housekeeper. Her house shines, as do her linens, her curtains—and her person. And she is a good cook. An invitation to dine with the Petersons is one that is anticipated by their friends. In the basement of their home, Mr. Peterson enjoys many happy hours at his work-bench. During the day, he is employed as a full-time machinist with the Edison General Electric Co.

Lindsey G. Williamson, blind for many years, and placement director for the Canadian National Institute at Toronto, has built a 14-foot motor launch, equipped with a two horsepower engine that he also helped to build. Most of the planing, sawing, and drilling for the launch was done in Mr. Williamson's basement hobby-shop, where he sorts out planks of birch or maple or oak by the smell of the wood. The launch has a 52-inch beam, oak ribs, a birch

(Photos: Hotpoint Press Bureau)



Mr. Peterson in his work-shop.

keel and a depth of 19 inches. The engine was built in partnership with a seeing friend. Mr. Williamson assembles parts constructed by his partner into two and three horsepower engines as another hobby.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XIII      October, 1940      Number 1

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## Announcement

Lest some of our readers may feel they were slighted by not receiving the July issue of *Light*, may we remind all that publication of that issue was suspended, as advised in our bulletin for July.



## Anniversary Celebration

Friends of the Braille Institute attended a dinner celebrating the twenty-first anniversary September 30, 1940 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. This "coming of age" event featured good music and entertainment, arranged by Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, chairman of the committee in charge.

Burr McIntosh, as master of ceremonies, presented a musical program with Lynette Benaltabet, ten-year-old child pianist, and Genevieve Wiley, mezzo soprano, sang a group of numbers, accompanied by Joseph Leonard. The entertainment concluded with the showing of two Disney color shorts, one of "The Three Little Pigs," furnished through the courtesy of Mr. Walt Disney.

Mr. Robert A. Odell, president of the board of trustees, welcomed the guests, and Messrs. Herman O. Meyer and C.

L. Whitehead, members of the board, spoke briefly.

Mrs. Hughes told of her plan for distributing pig banks to save a penny a day for the Braille Institute; and Mr. Arthur C. Pesterre recalled events which led to his establishment of the Pesterre Fund to provide special welfare needs for the blind.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. J. Robert Atkinson, founder, vice-president and managing director of the Institute. Mr. Atkinson related some of his personal experiences and reactions after losing his physical sight 29 years ago. At that time, he was a cowboy riding the range of Montana, 250 miles from anyone who knew anything about organized work for the adult blind. He told of his disappointment when he learned that all the institutions for the rehabilitation of the blind were located in the East, most of them on the Atlantic Coast.

He explained that this realization and the trials experienced in his own rehabilitation, without the advice and counsel of experienced workers, were perhaps responsible, even at that early date, for the beginning of a work in behalf of the blind of which he was wholly unaware.

"Up to the time I lost my sight, I loved the West with its big outdoors and open range," he explained. "But it seemed bigger and broader than ever before when I awoke to the realization that it was now wholly beyond my vision or negotiation."

Mr. Atkinson stressed the need of a private agency in the West, such as the Braille Institute, and explained that it was now the only institution of its kind west of the Mississippi; and that as such it stands here on the Pacific Coast



as a powerful lighthouse to all the blind west of the Rockies who are navigating the dark waters of physical blindness. He expressed the hope and conviction that the people in the West would endow it for the present, as well as the future, as substantially as similar institutions in the East.

He explained that in the twenty-one years since the Braille Institute was founded, there had been steady progress and that during the last ten or twelve depression years it had a little better than held its own. "Any enterprise," he said, "which has been able even to hold its own through these years, consistently, can claim notable progress."

Flowers for the tables, arranged by Mrs. Kristine Seguliev, were furnished through the courtesy of Biltmore Florists, Beverly Hills and Halchester Flower Shop, Hollywood.

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## Of Legal Age

On September 30, the Braille Institute reached its twenty-first milestone in service to the physically blind. On that date in 1929 it received its charter from the State of California as a non-profit, non-sectarian, nation-wide institution, devoted to the social and economic welfare of the blind. For ten years previously, it had been operated as an unincorporated, non-profit organization devoted chiefly to the *literary* advancement of the blind.

Now of legal age, its management feels it is lawfully and efficiently capable and worthy of receiving and expending in behalf of the blind, gifts, endowments and bequests for the purpose.

It was on September 13, 1919 that a pledge of \$5,000 a year for a period of

five years, by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, made possible the founding of the Braille Institute. Since that time, hundreds of kind friends have contributed to a steady, consistent program of service to the blind, through their helpful moral and financial support.

To all of these, the Institute's trustees and office staff feel deeply grateful, and as we enter our twenty-second year, we resolve once more so to conduct the affairs of the Braille Institute as to merit the continued support of all who have helped us so generously and to make new friends as well.

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## Kate M. Foley

Seldom has the editor had a more solemn and painful duty to discharge as the necessity of announcing this month the death of Miss Kate M. Foley, pioneer worker for the blind and for many years State Home Teacher for California.

Her passing means an irreparable loss to the cause of the blind—a niche in the structure of human relationship and social economy that will never be filled, for no one can take her place. No one in work for the blind is respected more than was Miss Foley and no one deserves more respect and admiration.

She began her career as home teacher about thirty years ago, as a volunteer. It was in this capacity that the editor called on her at her home in 1912, at the darkest period in his life. He had only recently lost his sight. The visit lasted scarcely more than an hour and it was several years thereafter before he again met Miss Foley, but the encouragement received was of lasting benefit.



Catherine M. Foley was born in East St. Louis, Illinois on May 26, 1873. She went to San Francisco seven years later and attended for 15 years the California School for the Blind. Following her graduation Miss Foley became interested in Braille instruction for the older blind and began voluntary teaching of the adult sightless in the State. She was made a member of the State Library Commission and subsequently a circulating library for the blind was begun with Miss Foley as one of its field teachers. She served in this capacity until early this year when ill health forced her retirement.



### Annual Membership Meeting

The by-laws as amended, changing our fiscal year to end on September 30, provide that the annual meeting of members shall be held "on the second Monday of the month of November in each year, at the office of the corporation, and at the hour of eight o'clock p. m., or at such time and place as may be mentioned in the call of the meeting mailed to each member fifteen days prior thereto."

As the second Monday in November this year falls on the 11th, a legal holiday in California, by instruction of the president, Mr. Robert A. Odell, the call will fix the date of the meeting as the following day, November 12.

A certified audit of the Institute's books and records for the year ending September 30, 1940, the twenty-first in our history, is now in process. This report, together with departmental reports covering various activities will be presented to the meeting and they will be published in *Light* for January, 1941.

Members of the Braille Institute are

earnestly requested to reserve November 12 on their calendars and to attend the meeting, official notice of which will be mailed in accordance with the by-laws.



### *To The Colors*

When the 13th Battalion, United States Marine Corps Reserve, marches early in November "from the halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli," three men from the Braille Institute of America will be among them. They are: Capt. Alan T. Hunt, superintendent, Don Linn, pressman, and LeRoy Wheeler, shipping clerk.

Captain Hunt is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and saw active service with the Marines in Nicaragua. He has been superintendent at the Braille Institute since April 1932, with the exception of one year, during which he was associated with the Matilda Ziegler Publishing Company for the Blind in Monsey, New York.

By unanimous action of the board of trustees, indefinite leaves are being granted to these men and their jobs will be open to them when they return after doing their bit for Uncle Sam.

The employees held a dinner at the Institute October 25, honoring these men. The long bindery tables in the printing department were set up for forty-four places. On behalf of the employees, J. Robert Atkinson, managing director, presented each of the men with stationery bearing the Marine insignia, and a leather portfolio. An impromptu program of songs and recitations concluded the evening's entertainment.

Outside could be heard the down-pour of the season's first rain. But in-



side there was merriment and sunshine—reflecting a wonderfully cooperative spirit of loyalty to our government, to the Braille Institute, and to each other.



### *Our Flag*

FOR MANY years the management of the Braille Institute has hoped to have Old Glory unfurled to the breeze above its building.

With no funds available for the purpose, it was decided to give members and contributors an opportunity to donate a flag and the necessary equipment. An appeal was made through the bulletin for August and the next day offers of money or flags began to reach the office.

Mr. Henry S. Woodland, a contributor, was the first to respond. Next came a telephone call from Mrs. Judson C. Rives. She had a flag which she lovingly donated. A day or two later, Matt Weinstock mentioned the need in his column in the Daily News, which prompted Mrs. A. H. Cave to offer a flag, which was accepted.

Another flag was accepted from Mrs. Richard Payn and Mr. R. W. Carter, representing the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, called to see if the need had been met. Cash contributions were received from Mrs. Louise Spoor, Mrs. Lillian S. Thompson and F. H. Bean. These, with Mr. Woodland's check, were exactly enough to pay the cost of the pole and equipment. The installation was made by Menard & Tabery at a price which indicates that firm's benevolent attitude towards a worthy cause.

To all these, as well as to those who offered flags that could not be accepted, the Braille Institute wishes to express profound thanks.

### *No Chest Aid*

In response to repeated inquiries, it seems well to remind readers of Light that the Braille Institute is not a member of the Community Chest as its service to the blind is state-wide and national in scope as well as local. To our knowledge, there is no local agency receiving aid from the Chest which is engaged specifically in welfare work for the blind.



### *Pig Market Report*

It's a pig a month at the Fred Harvey House, Union Station, Los Angeles. That is, for the last several months the pig bank placed at the cashier's desk there has netted a substantial sum for the funds of the Braille Institute.

Instead of a "penny a day" to drive darkness away, the latest pig bank returned from the Union Station averaged more than fifty cents for every day it was on duty.

This is just one of the prominent locations where a pottery pig has been placed for the benefit of the blind. Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, originator of the plan, has been instrumental in placing these banks at strategical locations throughout Southern California, from Santa Barbara to Coronado.

Hardly a year old, this unique plan for raising funds by "collective giving" promises to play an important part in financing the Braille Institute's activities in behalf of the sightless.

Late in September, Mrs. Hughes arranged for a display of the pig banks, together with Braille books, magazines, etc., at the Hollywood-Cahuenga Branch of the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles.



# ..J] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c..

*Bureau of Sight Conservation, Honolulu, T. H.* Mrs. Ellen S. Kahanu arranged exhibits of Braille literature at the Library of Hawaii during the observance of Library Week. There was a demonstration of talking books; and transcription and binding of books in Braille in the library's department for the blind. The demonstration of Braille books was under the direction of Mrs. W. E. Adams of the Red Cross.

\* \* \*

*Montana Commission for the Blind, Great Falls, Mont.* Approval of the application of Clyde McKnight of Great Falls for a vending stand was made at a recent meeting of the commission. During the discussion of vending stands for the blind, a report was made on the one now conducted by Michael Maloney at Fort Benton. Possible employment of a home teaching supervisor in the future and a summer short course in vocational handiwork and Braille were also discussed. Members of the board who met with Chairman Edwin G. Peterson, president of the School for the Deaf and Blind, were I. M. Brandjord, state public welfare administrator; Leif Fredericks, vocational rehabilitation supervisor, and P. W. Callahan, head teacher at the school.

\* \* \*

*U. S. Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina.* A recent letter from Mr. Thomas L. Hughes, Commercial Attaché of the Embassy, says in part: "The Embassy tries to keep in close touch with social welfare work in Argentina under the general heading of cultural relations and Pan-Americanism. . . . In Argentina

as everywhere else, the problem of converting blind men, women and children from a national liability into a national asset is difficult and important. Much has been done and is being done in the city of Buenos Aires itself but in the interior of the country the problem remains practically untouched. The National Board of Education is very anxious to embrace every modern method for helping the blind to be self-supporting. . . . In Buenos Aires one is constantly surprised at the number of blind people already employed in commercial houses and Government offices as typists and also as sorters, wrappers, etc. In several of the larger music stores, the majority of piano and organ tuners are blind men, but as a general rule vocations in the general commercial field are as yet limited here."

\* \* \*

*Oklahoma Commission for the Adult Blind, Oklahoma City, Okla.* J. Beverly Smith, blind resident of Muskogee, has been awarded the government contract to operate a canteen or cafe at the Veterans' Hospital, Muskogee. Operation of the canteen started July 1, 1940 under the supervision of the Oklahoma Commission for the Adult Blind. Since this is the first contract to be awarded to an agency for the blind in the United States on a competitive bid, it may have a decided effect on future hospital concessions. New fixtures were installed throughout, including kitchen equipment, counters, tables, chairs, etc. Plate lunches, sandwiches and short orders are served in the canteen at the hospital and it is



also open to the public. It has a seating capacity to accommodate 35 persons. This concession reflects the continued progress of the vending stand program of the Oklahoma Commission.

\* \* \*

*Washington State Association of the Blind.* At the convention held in Tacoma recently the following officers were elected: Mrs. E. J. Ziegler, Yakima, president; Mr. C. E. Fish, Everett, vice-president; Mr. Paul Werner, Tacoma, secretary; Mr. Frederick M. Hahn, treasurer; Mrs. Nora Knight, Tacoma, publicity chairman; Mr. Arthur Dunbar, Tacoma, legislative chairman; Mr. John C. Muir, ways and means chairman. The Association issues a mimeographed monthly bulletin, containing messages and news from the various county associations that has proven of interest to the blind when read to them. Mrs. Knight is the editor.

\* \* \*

*Wichita Association for the Blind,* Wichita, Kansas. For the first time in history, a vending stand has been set up in the Wichita postoffice. Joseph Griffith is in charge. Before his sight failed, Mr. Griffith was instructor of history at Wichita University. The appointment was made under provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard act, passed in 1936, largely through the efforts of members of the State Board of Social Welfare. Present at the opening were Mrs. Ruth Kelso, president of the Wichita Association, Mrs. Eilene Sternberg, secretary of the Workshop for the Blind, Postmaster Joe Riddle and Lawrence Q. Lewis, legislative representative of the State Association for the Blind.

*Perkins Institution for the Blind,* Watertown, Mass. During the summer additional space in the basement of Howe Building was shelved to hold more Braille volumes. This space will increase the capacity of the library 25 per cent, and will help meet, for a time, the expanding demands of that department. The Perkins Library is more than a school center because it serves the adult blind of New England. Over 25,000 volumes of Braille, 6,351 volumes of Moon type, and over 2,000 sets of talking book records are housed here for the benefit of blind readers. These books range from a volume of "The Acts of the Apostles," printed in 1836 and the first book for the blind published in the United States, to "Not Peace but a Sword," by Vincent Sheean.

\* \* \*

*District of Columbia Association of Workers for the Blind,* Washington, D. C. A recent bulletin of the Association includes a warning that new schemes are being devised by racketeers who have appeared in Washington every year and attempted to raise funds for blind agencies which do not exist. Prominent people are called on the phone and asked for a donation for a special purpose, saying that someone will call for it at a specified time. The man on the phone often pretends to be blind and will not give his name and address. This practice has been used throughout the country and anyone approached in this manner should investigate before making a donation. Accredited agencies for the blind frown on such methods of raising funds.

\* \* \*

*Dadar School for the Blind,* Dadar, Bombay, India. The year 1900 was



marked by a severe famine, with its subsequent epidemics and malnutrition. Many blind children attracted the attention of those working for the famine sufferers, so Miss Anna Millard gathered together at first some blind orphans, and later others, to start the American Mission School for the Blind (now known as the Dadar School for the Blind). It grew steadily through her untiring efforts. Gradually the first premises were outgrown. The area about them was too congested. It was through Miss Millard's efforts that land in Dadar was given by the government where new buildings were erected in 1920. Through the years the school has given primary education and vocational training to blind students. In 1937, the staff and equipment was increased to include secondary education. In April 1939, the management took over the Society for the Protection of Children in Western India.

\* \* \*

*The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind*, New York, N. Y. The Senior Chorus has made a number of appearances recently on important radio programs. Among these were: The Lanny Ross program over the Columbia Broadcasting System, Miss Singleton's program over the same system, and the Finnish relief benefit concert with Mr. Lauritz Melchior. The third season of Camp Wapanacki, Hardwick,

Vermont, conducted exclusively for handicapped children, was held in July for the boys and August for the girls.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London. In the Chairman's Notes in the September *St. Dunstan's Review*, Sir Ian Fraser reports that a bomb fell just outside the gate of Headquarters on the night of September 10. It made a crater 36 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Windows were blown in, doors, window-frames and plaster were damaged, and tons of rubbish plastered the buildings and yards. However, nobody was hit, and with the exception of damage to gas, electricity, and water supplies, nobody was affected. Some of the staff were in the air-raid shelter, the door of which was 33 feet from the crater. The people inside experienced a few minutes of extreme anxiety, but all was well and they suffered only from a bit of nervous shock. The report closes with these words: "I cannot write too highly of the hundreds of blinded soldiers who are remaining in London carrying on with their daily work as craftsmen, telephone operators, and masseurs, etc. St. Dunstaners all over the Empire, and in the quieter parts of the United Kingdom, will offer them congratulations and wish them good luck."





# HISTORY

THE Braille Institute of America, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the nation's blind. Chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille System, and with its headquarters in Los Angeles, it stands on the Pacific Coast as a memorial to that blind benefactor, Louis Braille, whose ingenuity made truly practical the publication of literature of all kinds in raised print for the blind.

The origin of the Braille Institute dates back to 1919, when an unincorporated, philanthropic institution known as "Universal Braille Press," devoted exclusively to the literary welfare of the blind through the printing of good literature of all kinds in Braille, was established in Los Angeles, California.

Its founding by J. Robert Atkinson was made possible through the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, who on September 13, 1919, pledged a sum of \$25,000 for the purpose, payable \$5,000 a year. The pledge was made on the condition that Mr. Atkinson would assume full responsibility for the establishment and management of such an institution; and in order that he might devote his entire time to the project, the gift included a salary stipulation for the five years. All the conditions of this benevolent contract were faithfully fulfilled.

Between the years 1912 and 1919, Mr. Atkinson had demonstrated his fitness to establish a printing plant for the blind by transcribing into Braille by hand a unique library of scientific work, consisting of more than 960,000 words, bound in 16 large Braille volumes, prepared for his own use. It was this accomplishment that inspired

Mr. and Mrs. Longyear spontaneously to offer financial assistance.

Soon the benevolence of this newly founded publishing plant was felt by the blind of the nation and to some extent the literary service rendered by it benefited many of the English-reading blind of other nations. Gradually, the demands for social and economic welfare service brought the conviction that an institution founded on broader principles was the need, and to accomplish this the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered on September 20, 1929.

Governed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, and established to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, the Braille Institute ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

Since September 1919, therefore, the Braille Institute and the forces which gave rise to its incorporation have been rendering social and economic welfare service to the adult blind in California and the nation to the extent funds permitted; and its literary service has enriched the English-reading blind of the world.

In recognition of this, the work of the Braille Institute was given generous space by Rockwell D. Hunt, A.M., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School, University of Southern California, in his elaborate work, "California and Californians," published in 1932. Perhaps more gratifying still is the fact that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., has merited recognition as a national agency in work for the blind by the editors of the Social Work Year Book of the Russell Sage Foundation.



GOD, LET ME GIVE

God, let me be a giver, and not one  
Who only takes and takes unceasingly.  
God, let me give, so that not just my  
own,  
But others' lives as well, may richer  
be.

Let me give out whatever I may hold  
Of what material things life may be  
heaping,  
Let me give raiment, shelter, food or  
gold,  
If these are, thru Thy bounty, in my  
keeping.

But greater than such fleeting treasures, may  
I give my faith and hope and cheerfulness,  
Belief and dreams and joy and laughter gay  
Some lonely soul to bless.

—Mary Carolyn Davies.

Harry W. Brintnall Co.

■  
*Printing and Bookbinding*  
*Machinery and Supplies*  
■

746 E. 17th St.      P R o s p e c t 3 2 3 1



Christmas  
is coming . . .



Blind-made Products  
Make  
Ideal Gifts . . .



ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing) ..	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 11.....	.12
5 lbs.....	.50
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 12.....	.15
5 lbs.....	.65
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)....	.15
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured  
on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking .....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men.....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus ..	2.00
Hill String Lineguide (for longhand writing).....	2.50



# FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

## FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

## CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of

.....(or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of

....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will dated.....  
testatrix her

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other,  
her her  
have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....



# YOUR OPPORTUNITY...

To assist the blind in their struggle for self-support. Often a loan of \$25 or \$50 is sufficient to give a blind person a new lease on life.

To give assistance to the needy blind who are not eligible for governmental aid under Federal and State laws. Approximately 60 per cent of the nation's 130,000 blind lost their sight after 50 years of age—beyond the age of rehabilitation for self-support.

To help maintain the Braille Institute Library. This free lending library serves the blind of California and Arizona—a territory assigned to it by the Library of Congress as one of the regional libraries to distribute literature furnished by the United States government. Such literature circulates through the mail free of postage, however the maintenance cost of the library, approximating \$5,000 a year, is borne entirely by the Braille Institute out of general funds or from contributions designated for that purpose.

To provide funds for the distribution of Webster's Students Dictionary in Braille, bound in 32 volumes, the cost of which approximates \$96. Special price to the blind, \$40 postpaid.

To assist with the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, free to the blind or at prices they may be able to pay below the non-profit production cost.

To provide a permanent fund to sustain the manufacturing cost of Braille writers in lots of 100 or more. These writers will be marketed to the blind at cost, no charge to be included therein for development of dies and jigs. To meet the demand already received from the blind all over the nation, funds should be available at once to make their production immediately possible.

To furnish free or subsidized subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine issued to the blind at a special rate of \$3 a year, the cost being about \$6.

Contributions are always needed to maintain these activities. Kindly return the attached coupon with your contribution and you will receive immediately a receipt therefor and be listed among the good friends who have made possible our twenty-one years of welfare service to the blind.

.....

Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to take this opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$..... to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, Inc. • LOS ANGELES

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Vol. XIII, No. 2

January, 1941



## ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PURSUANT to call, the members of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., met in annual session November 12, 1940 in the office of the corporation, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, for the purpose of reviewing the activities for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1940, and to elect a Board of Trustees for the ensuing year.

The by-laws as amended provide that the annual meeting of members shall be held "on the second Monday of the month of November in each year," however, as the second Monday in November, 1940 fell on the 11th, a legal holiday in California, by instruction of the president, Mr. Robert A. Odell, the call fixed the date of the meeting as the following day, November 12.

The meeting was called to order by the president, there being 124 members present in person and by proxy.

The following persons, all incumbents, were re-elected as trustees:

Messrs. J. Robert Atkinson, Herman O. Meyer, Robert A. Odell, Arthur L. Sonderegger, J. W. Tapley, and C. L. Whitehead, while Mr. Arthur C. Pesterre was nominated from the floor and elected to serve on the Board.

The report of the Board of Trustees was read, accepted and ordered published for distribution to the members, as follows:

### HISTORY

On September 30, 1929, the Braille Institute of America, Inc. received its charter from the State of California as a non-profit, non-sectarian, nationwide institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the blind. For ten years previously, it had been operated as an unincorporated, non-profit organization devoted chiefly to the literary advancement of the blind.

This means that on that date this year [1940], the Braille Institute became of legal age. During these twenty-one years the Braille Institute has furnished adequate proof that it is



efficiently organized and equipped to serve the social and economic needs of the adult blind in every walk of life. Similarly, it has demonstrated its worthiness to receive and expend in behalf of the blind gifts and endowments and bequests for the purpose.

Because of this, your Board of Trustees now feels assured that the time is not distant when the Braille Institute will be endowed permanently as are similar institutions east of the Mississippi to the Atlantic seaboard, so that it can be to the blind west of the Rocky Mountains what those institutions are to the blind in the East.

It was on September 13, 1919 that a pledge of \$5,000 a year, for a period

of five years, by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, made possible the founding of the Braille Institute. Since that time, hundreds of kind friends have contributed to a steady, consistent program of service to the blind through their helpful moral and financial support.

To all these, the Institute's trustees and staff are deeply grateful, and we enter our twenty-second year resolving once more so to conduct the affairs of the Braille Institute as to merit the continued support of all who have helped so generously and to make new friends as well.

#### TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Your Board of Trustees held twelve meetings during the year. These meetings were held regularly on call, in accordance with the by-laws, in the office of the president, 524 Van Nuys Building. This central location, and the meeting being called at one o'clock in the afternoon, seemed to be more convenient for the majority of the trustees.

#### NEW MEMBERS

The issuance of memberships ranging from \$5 to \$100 a year, with Life Membership at \$1,000, continued to be a source of revenue for the funds of the Institute. During the year, 41 new members were added to the list.

#### DICTIONARY IN BRAILLE

Of the two major projects endorsed by the



Marshall Perham Photo

The Moon stereotyper at the Braille Institute is now working a double shift to furnish reading matter for the elderly and infirm blind.



members at a previous meeting, one has been completed. It is the publication of an adequate abridged dictionary in self-pronouncing Braille, in cooperation with the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky.

Through the courtesy of the G. & C. Merriam Company, Webster's Students Dictionary for Upper School Levels was selected and reprinting rights obtained. This dictionary was put on the market in letterpress in July, 1938. Work on the 7,350 Braille plates necessary began immediately and that same year an edition was distributed to the schools for the blind by the American Printing House.

The plates were received at the Braille Institute early in 1939, and work on its edition started at once. This consisted of a 50-copy run, aggregating 1,600 volumes, as the work comprises 32 volumes, plus a reference handbook.

The cost of the work, including the plates, approximates \$96 per set of 32 volumes. However, the Braille Institute is endeavoring to maintain a special price to blind readers of \$40 per set, postpaid.

The following extract from a letter received from a Braille reader is similar to many others that might be cited which show what this dictionary means to Braille readers:

"For some time I have intended to write you a note just to tell you that I have received the new dictionary and think it is just about the finest of its kind ever to be placed in our hands. Please convey my most sincere gratitude to all those who have made it possible for us to have this excellent work at such a reasonable price. I

have graduated from two universities, and my heart aches to think what a wonderful help this work would have been to me. It is the thrill toward which many of us have been hoping for years. Be sure that we do appreciate the dictionary, and you who have made it possible."

#### BRAILLE WRITER

The next major project was the development and manufacture of a portable Braille writer suitable for use in the classroom and the business and professional world. This project has been rather costly and because of inadequate funds that could be used for the purpose it has been unavoidably delayed from time to time.

However, your management now feels very grateful to report the completion of the dies and jigs necessary for its production on an economical basis with all parts standardized, at a cost of \$11,110.81, including engineering, blue-prints and patterns.

Your management is also glad to report that an assembly room for the Braille writer is being equipped where the assembly of the first 100 writers will be in process shortly. It is proposed to employ blind men with mechanical ability to assemble this writer.

This project has really been under way since 1933. In 1937, a working model was demonstrated at the convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind held in Toronto, Canada. The delegates, both blind and sighted, who examined the writer commended the design highly, chiefly because of its simplicity, compactness and its apparent adaptability to meet all requirements for such a writer. Some of these delegates, especially volunteer Braille transcribers for the



American Red Cross, regretted that the model exhibited, being portable in design, would not accommodate the larger sheet of paper used by the Red Cross for book work. Otherwise, they seemed confident that the writer met all of their requirements and urged that a standard model, adequate for their needs, be brought out in addition to the portable.

It should be said that until then, the intention had been only to make a portable, as a large Braille writer then on the market was thought to be meeting the need for heavier work. Somewhat reluctantly, however, it was finally decided to bring out a standard model following the design of the portable. For the most part, the dies and jigs and patterns for the smaller writer will serve for the larger model. As soon as the first lot of portable writers is finished and on the market, the larger model will be manufactured.

#### BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

On December 1, 1937 the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille was established as one of the Institute's major activities. This activity was acquired through a merger of the Braille Bible Society with the Braille Institute.

The results since that time show clearly that this action was a progressive step, both in the interest of economy and of increased service to the blind and to their spiritual welfare.

By this action, the Braille Institute acquired all the activities, as well as the assets, of the Braille Bible Society, which were inaugurated in 1920. It seems proper, therefore, to report the distribution of 14,830 volumes of the Bible as of September 30, 1940. These volumes were distributed free to the

blind or at prices well below production cost. The distribution included Braille readers in all English-speaking nations and many English-reading blind in other nations of the world.

Notwithstanding this record, there is still a steadily increasing demand for the Bible in Braille. During the fiscal year ending September 30, 1940, 495 volumes of the Scriptures were distributed. Of this number, 274 were donated without charge, the remainder being sold at cost or less.

#### GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Since our last annual report for the year ending December 31, 1938, published in Light for April, 1939, the Institute has benefited substantially by numerous gifts and bequests. These have made possible broader welfare service to the blind in many walks of life. Among these were the Estates of Teresa W. Noack, Margarete Pudor, Fannie Rotier, Charles J. Chisam and Alice F. Cochran.

Word was also received during the year of the creation of a trust estate by the late Elizabeth F. Bradford of Milwaukee, to be known as the James B. and Jane R. Bradford Endowment. Out of the income of this fund, Miss Bradford provided for the Braille Institute and the Braille Bible Society, each to receive annually \$500, more or less, depending upon the net income available for distribution. That portion designated for the Bible Society by Miss Bradford will help to supply the Bible in Braille.

#### BUILDING FUND

Little or no progress has been made with the building project, endorsed by the members at the annual meeting in 1938. More than ever there is a need for a building adequate to house all of



the Institute's activities, and to provide a community center for the local blind. Such a building should include a gymnasium, swimming pool, public auditorium, classrooms and facilities for the instruction of the adult blind in the trades and professions, found practicable for them in the pursuit of a livelihood.

#### IMPERATIVE NEED

Over two years ago the Braille Institute Library was moved from headquarters into a building one block down the avenue. It was then the largest building available in this district and now it is the only one at all suitable, yet it is no longer adequate to meet our requirements. The space reserved there for assembling the Braille writer must now be used for books. Even so, this space will not be sufficient to meet the need for more than a few months.

A very serious problem therefore confronts us. It is serious: first, because of no building near which is adequate for the purpose; second, because of the additional expense the rental of such a building would incur.

#### HOME FOR THE HOMELESS

Among the many objectives of the Braille Institute is the establishment and maintenance of a residential home



*Len Weissman Photos*

Everyone is happy at Don the Beachcomber's when Lily Pons, Metropolitan Opera star, leaves a "tip" for the Braille Institute. No tipping is allowed in the checkroom, but patrons are given the opportunity to help one of the local charities.

for the homeless and destitute blind as a separate unit of its other welfare activities.

There has long been a great need for such a home in Southern California. The Institute's social welfare files show an increasing number of blind receiving aid under California's law for the needy blind, who find difficulty in procuring board and room anywhere at prices they can afford. There are also many blind within the State not eligible for aid who are homeless and at the point of destitution. These, above all, need custodial care such as a home for the blind would provide.

#### COLLECTIVE GIVING

In *Light* for October, 1939, there appeared an editorial stressing the value of "collective giving" whereby funds might be raised by saving a penny a day for the blind. The idea struck a responsive chord with Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes who had previously





Marshall Perham Photo

"Moment in Peking" by Lin Yutang has been completed in Braille at the Institute. The plates were made on the Atkinson Model stereotyper.

shown her interest in the Institute by sponsoring benefit exhibitions of Walt Disney original color drawings. Mrs. Hughes sent out nearly 250 Mexican pottery pig banks to her friends at Christmas, urging them to "save a penny a day" for the Braille Institute. The response was so spontaneous that Mrs. Hughes cooperated with the Institute in publicizing the idea with the result that several hundred pig banks have been distributed and promise substantial returns.

#### PESTERRE FUND

An emergency fund to take care of urgent welfare needs of the blind has been created by Mr. Arthur C. Pesterre and his friends to be administered by the Braille Institute. A typical case cared for through this fund is that of a blind woman whose state aid had not

been received and her gas had been turned off. A check for \$8.50 from this fund re-instated the service and furnished other immediate needs. Originally, the fund provided earphones in the boxes at Wrigley Field, where the blind baseball fan could get the announcer's play-by-play description and enjoy the thrill of being at the game as well.

Reports from the other departments are as follows:

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the audit by Floyd K. Brown, certified public accountant, setting forth receipts and disbursements in detail, is on file in the office of the corporation for examination by any member.

According to this audit, the total receipts for the year from all sources aggregated \$67,727.88, showing a substantial increase over the previous year.

The disbursements for the year aggregated \$56,386.61, covering the cost of the following: home teaching, \$1,951.56; free lending library, \$5,483.92; literature distributed, \$8,012.39; business guidance, \$1,234.80; social welfare, \$5,835.26; cost of books and periodicals sold and circulated, \$33,868.68, showing a net gain for the year of \$11,341.27.

#### ANALYSIS OF INCOME

The following figures are presented to show the net gain of income from all sources for the last fiscal year as compared with the previous nine months, the first fiscal year established to end September 30. The total income for January to September, 1939, aside from the operation of the printing depart-



ment and the sale of literature, aggregated \$14,739, or an average of \$1,-637.66 a month.

The total income for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1940, aggregated \$34,683.45, or an average of \$2,890.29 per month.

The increase in income is largely due to the gifts and bequests heretofore mentioned in this report.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

From October 1, 1939 to September 30, 1940, 29 speaking engagements were filled by Mr. Atkinson or members of the staff. It is estimated that 1,064 persons were addressed at these meetings.

These groups included community chambers of commerce, women's clubs, service clubs, business and professional women's clubs, church groups and P. E. O. Chapters. The Business and Professional Women's Club of Laguna Beach, at which representatives from other Orange County clubs were present, was one of the groups addressed.

Miss Genevieve Wiley was soloist at some of these programs and at several of the church groups Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Lee were presented.

The twenty-first anniversary celebration at the Beverly Hills Hotel, September 30, 1939, is included among these meetings.

Clippings and press mention totaled 128. Some of these were syndicated items, especially the picture of the Braille globe which was given wide circulation early in the year.

The records indicated that 285 guests were shown through the plant. Several groups, including boys' clubs, Sunday School classes, social welfare clubs from girls' schools and adult education classes, were among the visitors.

Three issues of *Light* were published — October, January and April — and 9,103 copies mailed. Current issues of *Light* are generally distributed at meetings addressed by Braille Institute speakers, which increases the distribution by 1,064. Guests at the Institute are always given a copy of *Light*, further increasing the distribution and making a total circulation of 10,452.

The mimeographed bulletin was issued five times during the year, 22,549 copies being mailed. The December issue, the only one containing an appeal for funds, was mailed to a list of 14,551. This bulletin was printed in green ink on green paper, with Christmas decorations in two colors in the head. This particular bulletin has proven to be a very successful medium of raising funds.

*(Continued to Page 14)*



*Marshall Perham Photo*

A page proof is "taken" in the press room at the Braille Institute.



# A BLIND HOUSEWIFE WRITES A COOK BOOK

By JAMES H. COLLINS

Some women read mystery stories, while others find enough mystery in cooking recipes.

"Take six eggs, separate and beat the whites—"

Who committed the murder? What do you do with the yolks? The recipe does not say.

Evelyn Lee is a blind housewife, who loves home and hospitality. Many a time she had tried to do the things ordered in recipes, and found them funny as well as mysterious. So she decided to write a cookbook of her own, by a blind cook, for blind cooks.

It will appear in Braille early this year, have about five hundred recipes tested by Mrs. Lee, not only to cook as directed, but with adaptations for blind cooks.

For instance—separating those eggs. That's a hard thing to do without sight, and in her Braille cookbook the reader will be referred to a number in her "KKK" section, where she will tell how to do it with and without tools.

In the stores, you can buy a celluloid gadget that drains the white of an egg from the yolk—or you can make a small hole in the large end of the egg and let the white drain out, leaving the yolk in the shell.

"KKK" stands for "Kitchen Kross Kuts," and tells about methods and gadgets for measuring, mixing, preparing and cooking, by blind cooks.

On Christmas day, in their Los Angeles home, the Lees gave a turkey dinner for fourteen people, with everything from a twenty-two-pound bird to plum pudding, cooked by herself.

How to roast a turkey by touch? How you baste it—in an open or covered pan?

Mrs. Lee coated her turkey in paste made



*Braille Institute Photo*

Mrs. Lee takes a look at her Christmas turkey and finds that it is doing nicely, thank you.



from flour and butter, which keeps the juices in, and browns nicely, as it roasts in an open pan.

The Lees have been married seven years, and are both sightless. Cecil is a Braille proofreader at the Braille Institute of America, and Evelyn, blind since birth, used to work with him, but now devotes her time to homemaking.

The Lees love parties, are always entertaining, and if Evelyn cooks the food, and plans the party, there is never a dull moment, because the "eats" are delicious, and the games keep everybody "in stitches." And some of her parties take planning, because she has often entertained blind, deaf and other handicapped guests together, and always has something they can all play at.

There are cookbooks in Braille, but until Evelyn Lee thought of compiling one for blind people, they have always been simply approved cookbooks for sighted people, transcribed into Braille. They tell you what to do, and if you have to see through your fingers, it's up to you to find out how to do it.

And it is certainly not a question of being clever when recipes call for cooking by thermometers, and timing by minutes, and so on. Thermometers cannot be read by fingers, and as ordinary a job as soft-boiling an egg is not easy for the blind, be-

cause clocking by minutes is hard to do, and sand glasses are useless.

But in her KKK section, Evelyn tells about an electric cooker for eggs. You put in a teaspoon of water for each minute, plug in, and the cooker turns itself off when the eggs are just right (Hanscroft egg cooker, made in Madison, Wisconsin).

She is a persistent explorer for cooking gadgets that can be used by the blind, her sighted friends have helped her, and her kitchen is really a special laboratory in this field, from which she has given information for blind cooks. Many of the handiest gadgets are from the five-and-ten, and therefore moderate in price.

For blind cooks, certain kinds of cooking are very difficult. Frying is almost impossible, and dangerous, and also broiling, unless a special broiler is used, in which the grease drains away into a covered pan, safe against fire.

Blind people like, and find it easiest to prepare, casserole and steam cooker dishes, in which the main elements of

(Continued to Page 21)



Braille Institute Photo  
Evelyn Lee's Christmas dinner table which she arranged. Individual place cards, with holiday motifs, had each guest's name in ink print and Braille, and were her own design.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XIII      January, 1941      Number 2

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## *A Penny a Day*

The colorful little Mexican pig banks, designed for saving a penny a day for the Braille Institute, were so attractive and intriguing to many who received them that they began to send contributions for the equivalent of 365 pennies in the form of checks for that amount, and sometimes more, with the request that they might be permitted to keep the pigs as souvenirs.

As the weeks and months rolled by the pigs began to arrive, well fed for market. Instead of pennies only, many contained nickels, silver and currency. As a result, an accounting at the end of the first year shows that the pig banks averaged \$6.57 each, a total of \$1,100.97 having been received, and there are still more pigs to come in.

To Mrs. Hughes, who inaugurated the plan, and to her many friends and all others who have participated in it, the Braille Institute says "Thanks a thousand times."

The first year's returns indicate clearly the possibilities of this simple, practical method for raising funds as the movement spreads. On that basis, 1,000 pig banks placed and filled in 1941 would bring to the Braille Insti-

tute \$6,570 for welfare service to the blind in 1942. This indeed would be a substantial help.

Readers of *Light* who would like to contribute to the work for the blind in this way are invited to write to the Braille Institute, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. A pig bank will be sent on request.



## *Canteens*

Following closely the advent of pig banks under the banner "a penny a day drives darkness away," as a revenue-earner for our welfare activities, the installation of Canteens in public buildings and in factories and places of business was given consideration. These machines contain packaged candies, nuts and chewing gum.

Through an arrangement with the Automatic Canteen Company of Chicago, the Braille Institute of America will receive 10 per cent of the gross revenue from all Canteens the Institute is able to place in private industry. Through an arrangement with the National Society for the Blind, Washington, D. C., the Institute receives eight per cent of the gross income on Canteens placed on WPA projects and in government buildings.

Similar arrangements in other localities have brought local agencies for the blind an annual income of several thousand dollars. In the District of Columbia, this revenue is reported to have been in excess of \$6,000 in one year. All such revenue is absolutely net to the blind welfare agency participating.

The Canteens are serviced by uniformed employees, their contents kept fresh and filled with choice products.

The Braille Institute invites local



manufacturers and business firms employing two score or more persons to cooperate in the placement of these Canteens. Many employers have found that their installation is beneficial to them as well as to their employees, with the added advantage that the eight or ten per cent commission turned over to the Braille Institute really means a contribution on their part to blind welfare service.



### To South America

In another instance, the literary service of the Braille Institute was extended to South America recently when the three Braille Primers were sent to a correspondent in Chile. These primers, designed for self-instruction with the aid of sighted persons, have proven of great help to the blind who do not have the assistance of a teacher. The following is an excerpt from a letter received:

"We have been working at this [Grade One and a Half] with Jaime for the last fortnight—that is as soon as he mastered thoroughly Grade One. I am glad to say that he is progressing very satisfactorily. He is not yet able to study by himself as he is not sufficiently acquainted with English, but he is also making progress in that respect. Judging by what I have been able to pick up while teaching him, I consider the Braille system really wonderful; and the form in which you teach it, by means of these Grades, makes it a very interesting and attractive study. Everything is so clearly explained that there is no way of going wrong. I am indeed very grateful to you for the interest you have taken in my son and for your kindness in offering to help him from time to time."

### The Blind Vote

By all odds the greatest privilege and the gravest responsibility of the citizen of a democracy is the right and the duty to vote. Through the ballot the people speak. Through it they participate in the functions of government, determine its trends, evolve its very philosophy.

For the most part, the blind of the nation take this responsibility very seriously and oftentimes discharge it at an inconvenience to them which the average sighted person would not endure.

In California, as in the great majority of states, the election law permits a blind person to select at least one person and no more than two persons, to assist him in marking his ballot; or upon request he may be assisted by two of the officers of the election, of different political parties. Sometimes officials at the election boards do not understand this law, insisting upon the old provision which required the blind voter to be assisted by two of the judges.

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### ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRaille INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing) ..	.65
Grooved Writing Card	
(for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 11.....	.12
5 lbs.....	.50
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 12.....	.15
5 lbs.....	.65
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)....	.15
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking .....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men.....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus	2.00
Hill String Lineguide	
(for longhand writing).....	2.50



ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT  
OF TRUSTEES*(Continued from Page 9)*

Only one large-scale mailing was made during the year. It was a letter addressed to "ex-contributors," totaling 1,225. Thirty-one of these former contributors responded.

As a trial, 657 personally typed letters were sent to members of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and business firms. The point of this letter was to show the value of the Braille Institute to the community as an industrial concern giving employment to more than a score of persons; and spending \$40,000 annually in Southern California, which otherwise would not go west of the Mississippi River.

Members and contributors are followed up annually with a personally written letter and letters of thanks to these are personally written also.

Mailings of the bulletin and Light have included, in addition to members and contributors, a list of local attorneys, institutions for the blind throughout the country, and selected lists that vary from time to time.

The pig bank plan, sponsored by Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, as a means of saving "A penny a day to keep darkness away," has been a means of engaging the interest of small contributors, however in many cases, the contributions have been very substantial. Mrs. Hughes has been instrumental in placing these banks in hotels and restaurants throughout Southern California, thereby bringing the Braille Institute to the attention of hundreds who otherwise might not hear of it.

## PRINTING DEPARTMENT

The Institute operates its printing department, on a non-commercial basis, for the publication of books and maga-

zines in Braille and Moon types sponsored by other agencies as well as for its own account.

During the year ending September 30, 1940, the department produced 72 book titles, 2,162 copies. Of these, 39 were Braille titles for the Library of Congress and 7 Moon titles for the government, under the appropriation administered by the Project, Books for the Adult Blind. With a few exceptions the remainder were sponsored by the Braille Institute.

In addition, the department published four periodicals for circulation by other organizations aggregating 25,783 copies; and two monthlies sponsored by the Braille Institute aggregating 9,308 copies, or a total of 1,833,968 pages.

Prior to 1933, when the Braille Institute equipped its printing department for the printing of Moon type, the only source of literature in this form was England. The War in Europe has virtually stopped the importation of these books from the original source, and the Institute is now being called upon to do almost all the Moon printing in this country. With this increased production the need for another Moon stereotyper is imperative.

Beginning with deliveries to the Library of Congress in January, 1940, original orders have been decreased to 26 copies. This results in increased labor costs for printing and binding and decreased production in these departments but has no effect on composition and proof-reading.

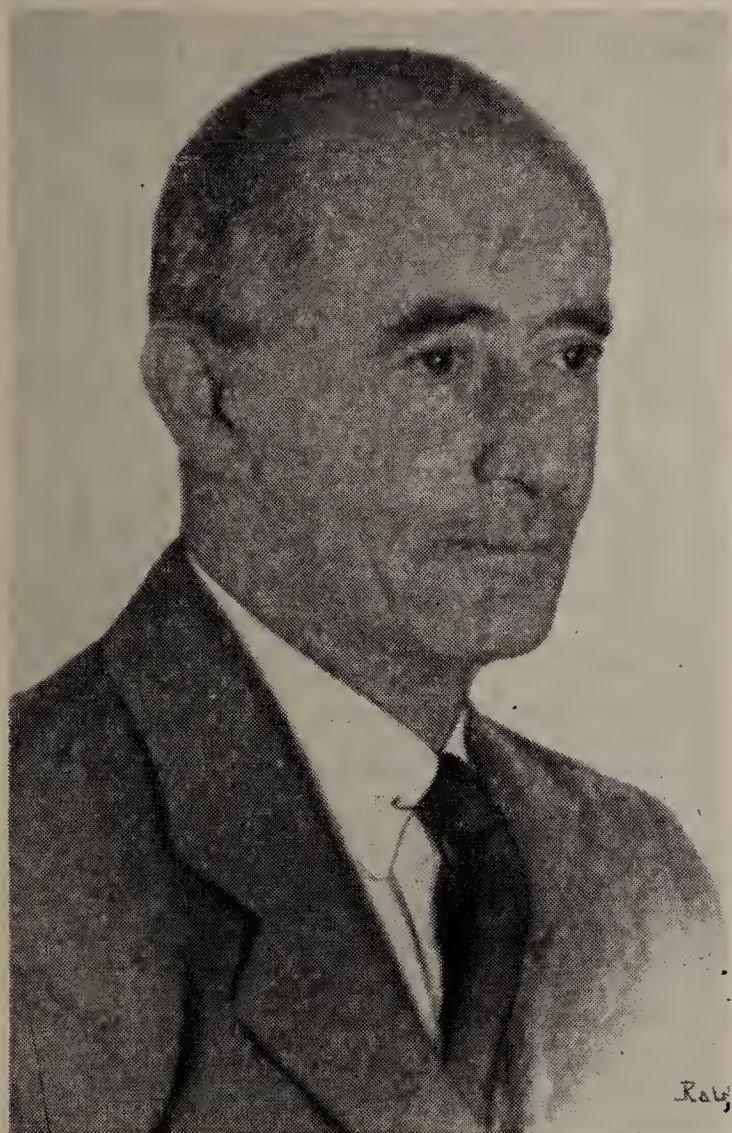
The volume of production from month to month remained fairly steady throughout the year. The number of volumes set up for the Library of Congress was greater than in any previous year, while the number of volumes

*(Continued to Page 18)*



## OUR OWN WHO'S WHO

There's quite a story leading up to Mr. Arthur Pesterre becoming one of our new trustees, for his interest in the blind began when he learned that they liked baseball, and started a fund to provide earphones for them at Wrigley Field, helping them follow the play by radio. Earl Houk, County Charities



ARTHUR C. PESTERRE

Department adjudicator for the blind, interested him in the project. Playing cards and games have also been provided, and the fund has also made a loan to a blind Chinese gardener, to get him started raising mushrooms.

Mr. Pesterre (he pronounces it *pes-stair*) was born in Oxford, England, educated as an engineer, traveled over the United Kingdom as an electrical

expert, and then decided he could have more fun with horses.

He opened a riding school in Dublin, and had many famous patrons, among them Eamon de Valera.

Selling out when the first World War started, he joined the army, was stationed in Dublin, and saw all the excitement of the Sinn Fein rebellion, bought back his business at the armistice, but found Ireland far from peaceful. Pulling up roots, he took his family to British Columbia, tried ranching, decided for California, landed in San Pedro, got a job as riding master, sent for his wife, and has been here ever since.

Deciding that horses were not as much fun here, he went into business, and for sixteen years has been "Pesterre's — Beverly Hills," famous over the country for swank men's furnishings, and riding togs for men and women. Most of his merchandise and materials are imported from England, and he is getting them regularly, despite war.

An all-around sportsman, he has rowed in the English ragattas, skied in Switzerland, played football, hockey, tennis, hunted and ridden steeplechase, and is, of course, a baseball fan. He was commodore of the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club, saw it grow from two sailing boats to over fifty, and is also a breeder of German shepherd "police" dogs, keen about spreading dog philosophy as an inspiration to human beings—who certainly seem to need something of that kind these days!

—J. H. C.



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*New York Association for the Blind*, New York, N. Y. An editorial in the first issue of *Lighthouse News* states that it "will keep you up to date on happenings in the world of the blind. It will tell you what is going on among the 4,000 sightless persons who turn to the Lighthouse for encouragement in their endeavor to live normal lives though handicapped." The News is edited by the newly formed Executive Committee of the Association. The Committee has started a program to increase the sales of products of the workers by bringing new and better styles and by bringing more visitors to the Craft Shop. A sub-committee on publicity already has increased the number of free theatre tickets for the blind. Other sub-committees are being formed to work with volunteers, Braille press, recreation department, clubhouse and nursery school. The committee has organized an effort to secure an additional \$25,000 urgently needed to raise the total sum required for the 1941 budget of \$164,625.

\* \* \*

*District of Columbia Association of Workers for the Blind*, Washington, D. C. Mr. Albert Gonzales, a former member of this Association and a graduate of Georgetown University Law School, has been elected to the New Mexico Legislature. The first blind man to pass the bar examinations in New Mexico, he now becomes the first blind man to sit in the legislature of that State. Successful in his first political venture, Mr. Gonzales may look forward to a career in state and na-

tional affairs. The Association reports the distribution of its annual report in Braille.

\* \* \*

*National Federation of the Blind*. The organized blind in seven states were represented at a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind, held in Wilkes Barre, Pa. Assured of the interest of other state organizations, they organized a National Federation with Dr. Jacobus tenBroek as president. Dr. tenBroek, a Californian, is now an instructor at the University of Chicago Law School. Robert Brown, 239 Stonycreek Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania was elected first vice-president. Organizations of and for the blind are invited to write Mr. Brown for further particulars.

\* \* \*

*National Institute for the Blind*, London, England. Interesting items concerning the blind and air raids are reported in a recent issue of the *New Beacon*. Seventy blind men and women in an institution at a Southwestern town were being led back from their shelter when one bomb hit a shelter and another the bedrooms to which they were being taken. Two men were injured by flying glass but there was no panic. Blind home workers in the Southeastern Counties are carrying on under extremely difficult conditions. Several have lost their homes entirely, one has been killed and many have been forced to move. But their spirit is shown by the remark of one of them evacuated by the authorities: "We hope to return at the end of this month. I



can't let my connection go, even if Hitler does want the Southeast Coast." Forty blind Germans who were staying at a nursing home in the Home Counties had to be evacuated because of a time bomb in the garden. The Rev. Stanley Morgan, Congregational Minister at Greenhithe, Kent, has been conducting services in an old chalk tunnel for a congregation of nearly 200 men, women and children. His accompanist is Ben Buxton, blind organist, a master-hand with the piano-accordion.

\* \* \*

*Washington State Association of the Blind.* Two attorneys of the Pierce County Association, W. A. Richmond and John T. McCutcheon, have been elected to the state legislature. The legislative committee is very active with reference to pension plans, white cane ordinances and other measures affecting the blind.

\* \* \*

*Inter-State Association for the Blind.* Representatives of the Utah Association of the Blind and the Idaho Progressive Society of the Blind have organized an association of the blind not to be limited to state lines. The purposes of this organization are: To promote mutual understanding among all of the blind whose organizations are affiliated with this association; to deal with all problems affecting the well-being of all associations holding membership in this organization; and to bring together upon various occasions for their own advancement, welfare and mutual pleasure, the blind in the states or regions under the jurisdiction of this association. Mr. Harley E. Campbell, P. O. Box 154, Boise, Idaho, is secretary of the Association, with whom correspondence is invited.

*South Indian School for the Blind, Kunnankulam, Cochin State, South India.* This school was started in 1934 as an experiment—"in a spirit of adventure and faith." The 1931 census calculates that there are more than 600,000 blind persons in India, but few schools. Therefore, the "experiment" was also the answer to a great need. Two teachers were specially trained by the management at the Schools for the Blind at Palamcottah. At first there was only one pupil, but steadily the number increased from year to year. No pupil pays any tuition fee. Most of the children are very poor, twenty of them entirely dependent upon the school for all provisions. There are now five classes and the sixth will be opened before long. The staff includes two teachers and one more will have to be appointed soon. Instruction is given in reading, writing, arithmetic and other subjects given to the blind pupils of other schools. Special attention is given to handicraft. A singing class has been arranged and a musical drama, "Dundaravalli" was staged. On this occasion two medals were given to the best actors. Gardening is another interesting activity of the children, as well as games and physical exercises.

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*Colorado State Commission for the Blind, Denver.* This Commission is now settled in its new building which also houses the Workshop Craft Department and is located at 100 West Seventh Avenue. Kathryn C. Barkhausen is executive secretary.

\* \* \*

*National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, New York, N. Y.* Mason H. Bigelow has been elected president of

(Continued to Page 20)



# ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT OF TRUSTEES

(Continued from Page 14)

printed declined to a figure lower than any previous year.

Industrially the operation of this department afforded employment for 17 full-time employees and five part-time, or a total personnel of 22 employees. Of the 17 full-time employees, two are blind; and of the five part-time, three are without sight.

Due to conditions wholly beyond the Institute's control or improvement, the printing department lost money on governmental contracts for the Library of Congress. This loss, however, was made up by a small gain realized on all other printing contracts for outside private agencies. The total income from these aggregated \$29,885.77, the total cost, \$29,780.84, leaving a net gain of \$104.93 in the operation of the printing department for outside agencies.

## SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

This report includes not only those activities classified as social welfare, but also home teaching and business guidance. It, therefore, covers most of the features of the Institute's service to the blind individual, excepting the library and magazines published by the Braille Institute.

The total number of cases listed at the beginning of the year was 1031. At the end of the year this number was increased to 1267. The month-by-month activities of this department affected 475 major cases and 282 minor cases, a total of 757.

*Literature distributed*, in addition to that reported specifically under magazines, Braille Bibles and Webster's Students Dictionary, included an item of \$291.95, covering the cost of "The Bulletin Board." This monthly magazine,

printed in Braille, was printed for The American League for the Deaf-Blind, as a contribution to this doubly handicapped class.

*Donations* included 18 radios, 180 white canes, 9,764 publications, not including free *Mirror* subscriptions. It was necessary to discontinue the donation of radios and radio repair service in March, 1940.

*Services*: 23 radios were repaired; 157 talking book machines were repaired; 38 transportation letters were written and 169 tickets secured to theatres and concerts; 35 individuals were furnished transportation.

*Home teaching*. A total of 56 students received instruction by home teachers during the year, and 36 received special help in Braille or Moon type, either by correspondence or personal call. Of the regular students, 13 were graduated in Grade 2, and 25 failed to complete the work and were dropped. The chief cause of not completing a full course in Braille is illness. However, many students were dropped as no longer requiring the aid of a home teacher.

The home teaching was carried on by volunteer teachers. Five were active at the end of the year. Three others were temporarily inactive.

*Business guidance*. Many requests for financial aid for business projects were received from in and out of the State. Of these, four were granted. A loan of \$25 was made to one client to purchase agricultural equipment. Another loan of \$25 was for the purchase of radio equipment. The establishment of an office and salesroom was helped through a loan of \$180, while another client was granted a loan of



\$17.50 for the purchase of surgical equipment.

Two loans made the previous year were brought forward. They were for transportation and the purchase of stock for the manufacture of ties.

Under social welfare, loans were made under the classifications of emergency, transportation and clothing.

#### MAGAZINE DEPARTMENT

In the latter part of April, the first issue of the "California Reporter," a monthly bulletin printed in Braille, Grade One and a Half, was sent free to the blind of the State who read that system. The purpose of the *Reporter* is "To issue authentic information important to the welfare of the blind of California." Its average circulation for five issues was 994 copies a month.

That the *Reporter* meets a real need among Braille readers is indicated by the many favorable expressions received. They included the following: "I've just received your sample copy of the California Reporter and have read it over. I find it very interesting. It is just what I've been looking for. Please keep my name on the permanent list."

Another said: "[It] can be a connecting link to unite all of us . . . for progress in this cause."

During 1940, "The Braille Mirror," the Institute's monthly magazine launched in 1926, had an average monthly circulation of 333, with 32 foreign readers. Since subscriptions to the *Mirror* are held by the various regional lending libraries for the blind, and many individual subscribers pass their magazine on to other readers, the actual circulation would be somewhat larger.

The *Mirror* is issued to the blind at

a subscription rate less than half its publishing cost. Free subscriptions are furnished when funds make possible. If funds were available to further reduce the special subscription rate to the blind, or to make it an entirely free publication, it would soon reach a monthly circulation of 10,000 copies.

The high regard in which the *Mirror* is held by its readers is indicated in part by the following excerpt from a letter received: "Just a brief note to show my appreciation for your kindness in making it possible for me to receive The Braille Mirror during the entire year. The *Mirror* is one of the best magazines printed in Braille and it makes me feel very happy to know that I'll be one of those lucky persons on the mailing list of this wonderful magazine."

A reader in Cairo, Egypt wrote: "You are so kind to send me The Braille Mirror free of charge. My friend and I both thank you with all our hearts for this benefaction which you do for us. . . . [We] find much pleasure in reading this magazine. As I am partly deaf also, conversation is for me very difficult and the occasion rare also. So you can imagine that your magazine must procure me a great consolation for it is so interesting and instructive. Every month I await, with impatience, the arrival of the new number. . . ."

It was a matter of considerable regret on the part of the Institute when it was necessary to discontinue the publication of "New Moon," its monthly magazine printed in Moon type. This action was made necessary due to lack of funds available for this purpose. One Moon reader wrote: "I miss the New Moon magazine, for which I was a subscriber, very much. I can hardly ex-



press in words how very sorry I am. . . It is so instructive and interesting."

Another said: "Ever since I learned that the New Moon magazine would come to me no more, I have felt as if I had lost a valued friend. Not being able to hear the good things that come over the radio, I depend on my Moon type magazines to keep me in touch with the world. I have found the News Notes in the New Moon magazine of great interest. You seem to give your readers the best of the news and we were able to carry on conversation with our friends who can read the daily papers and hear the radio news."

#### FREE LENDING LIBRARY

At the beginning of the year there were 83 persons borrowing Braille books, 12 borrowing Moon books and 301 borrowing talking book records, a total of 396 members. At the end of the year there were 94 Braille borrowers, 13 Moon and 400 record borrowers, a total of 506. The increase in number was respectively 13 per cent, 3 per cent and 33 per cent; the increase in the total membership being 28 per cent.

During the year the number of Braille books was increased by 664 volumes, and now totals 8,163 volumes. Moon books were increased by 79 volumes and now total 886 volumes. Talking book records were increased by 348 containers.

Circulation for the year showed an increase of 78 per cent in Braille, 24 per cent in Moon and 75 per cent in talking book records.

The cost of operating the library for the year aggregated \$5,483.92, an average of \$457 per month. This represents an annual average cost of service of \$12.15 per member, including admin-

istrative cost, salaries, rent, utilities, supplies, etc.

The selection of titles for transcription is making it increasingly possible for the blind to keep pace with affairs of the world. Every effort is being made to develop a balanced collection of books which will meet the need of every individual.

That the Braille Institute Library, a distributing library for books made available under the Project, Books for the Adult Blind, Library of Congress, is meeting these needs, is evidenced by the enthusiastic response of its readers. Our aim and hope is to provide the books desired and to inspire new interests in fields hitherto not made possible to the blind through the limited resources of books at their command.

Although most of the literature in the library is supplied by the government, it receives absolutely no aid for maintenance cost. The cost of operation is therefore a heavy drain on the Institute's limited funds.

Within the last six months, the service has been impaired because of inadequate funds with which to meet increased demands. During that time the enrollment has almost doubled, as has also the circulation. An assistant librarian on full time is needed, and the building near the Institute's headquarters, where the library is housed, is crowded almost to capacity.

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#### INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

*(Continued from Page 17)*

this Society to succeed William Fellowes Morgan, who retired as head of the organization after serving the entire twenty-five years of its history. Mr. Morgan will have the title of president emeritus.



A BLIND HOUSEWIFE WRITES A COOKBOOK  
(Continued from Page 11)

a meal, like meat and vegetables, are cooked together, at the same time, in one utensil.

So, Evelyn's cookbook is strong in dishes of that kind, put together for tastiness, and a balanced meal. There are also cold combinations, and frozen dishes made in the electric refrigerator, and desserts.

No sighted cook who knew how to read Braille would find this cookbook in any way limited, and if Evelyn cooked the meal from it, and you sat down at her table after she had stepped into the kitchen, you would find no hint or clue that the cook had worked entirely by touch—and horse sense.

Every item in that Christmas dinner, from fruit cocktail to pickled peaches, including two kinds of cranberry relish, raw and stewed, with orange-and-marshmallow sweet potatoes, was cooked by her, and she set the two big tables—her guests helped only in cleaning up afterwards.

You'd like her biscuits, one of the first things she learned to bake, when she was a tiny tad, and her aunt taught her. And can she bake a cherry pie!

Or any other pie, or cake—the ingredients are measured and placed beforehand, and she can tell by the sense of smell when the baking is done.

Her kitchen is an exceptionally clean and orderly place, because everything has to be kept just-so, for touch cooking, and she has devised various helpful kinks to offset lack of sight—for instance, when the grocery boy delivers canned foods, he reads the labels to her, and she relabels the tins in Braille, written on her Braille slate.

Evelyn is a product of a particular way of education for the blind, because instead of being sent to an institution, her aunt kept her at home, and taught her housekeeping while she attended the Los Angeles Thirty-second Street grammar school. Thus, she grew up with sighted playmates, and lived among sighted people, and cooking and housekeeping have been so normal to her that it was only recently that she reflected that many blind persons might find their cooking problems simplified by her own discoveries and methods.

Hence, Evelyn Lee's Cookbook for the blind housewife.

Some people see angels where others see only empty space. — *Ruskin.*



# YOUR OPPORTUNITY...

- To assist the blind in their struggle for self-support. Often a loan of \$25 or \$50 is sufficient to give a blind person a new lease on life.
- To give assistance to the needy blind who are not eligible for governmental aid under Federal and State laws. Approximately 60 per cent of the nation's 130,000 blind lost their sight after 50 years of age—beyond the age of rehabilitation for self-support.
- To help maintain the Braille Institute Library. This free lending library serves the blind of California and Arizona—a territory assigned to it by the Library of Congress as one of the regional libraries to distribute literature furnished by the United States government. Such literature circulates through the mail free of postage, however the maintenance cost of the library, approximating \$5,000 a year, is borne entirely by the Braille Institute out of general funds or from contributions designated for that purpose.
- To provide funds for the distribution of Webster's Students Dictionary in Braille, bound in 32 volumes, the cost of which approximates \$96. Special price to the blind, \$40 postpaid.
- To assist with the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, free to the blind or at prices they may be able to pay below the non-profit production cost.
- To provide a permanent fund to sustain the manufacturing cost of Braille writers in lots of 100 or more. These writers will be marketed to the blind at cost, no charge to be included therein for development of dies and jigs. To meet the demand already received from the blind all over the nation, funds should be available at once to make their production immediately possible.
- To furnish free or subsidized subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine issued to the blind at a special rate of \$3 a year, the cost being about \$6.

Contributions are always needed to maintain these activities. Kindly return the attached coupon with your contribution and you will receive immediately a receipt therefor and be listed among the good friends who have made possible our twenty-one years of welfare service to the blind.

.....  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to take this opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$..... to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, Inc. • LOS ANGELES

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*orig. July 1941 issue published*

## BLIND ATTORNEY, COURT COMMISSIONER —AND OTHER THINGS

By JAMES H. COLLINS

ONE DAY, during the first World War, when LaVerne Roberts was eleven, his Dad took him into the Michigan legislature, and he heard the Governor make a speech for war funds.

That was the first interest of a boy born blind—politics.

Today, he has many other interests, and having seen some of the inner workings of legislative bodies, is not so keen about being a legislator.

But, while he was in school in Lansing, he often went down to the Capitol after hours, and listened to debates. The road to a seat in the legislature lay through the law. He resolved to study, and become an attorney.

This was not his father's idea, for the latter, also blind, as was the boy's mother, wanted him to become a musician. Until his death three years ago, the elder Roberts was organist for

twenty-four years at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral.

LaVerne's own ambition prevailed. While at the Michigan State School for the Blind, he participated in debates, then took two years in an outside high school, entered Michigan State College, graduated in 1931, when twenty-five, and began studying law with Judge Leland Carr, who conducted a night class.

He had hoped to go to a law school with "prestige," such as the University of Michigan. But now he says that prestige doesn't bring clients, and that he thinks his training was more thorough, especially in Michigan law. It was practical, not theoretical, and he got experience that must often be gained after graduation, and painfully, by the theoretical law student.

He had to work his way, and ran a cigar stand in the city hall, and was



for two years a part-time home teacher for the county.

Admitted to the bar in 1935, he could not open an office, lacking money, and discovered that law offices distrusted the ability of a blind attorney.

So, he fell back on politics, ran for Circuit Court Commissioner, got 22,000 votes—but the 1936 Roosevelt steam-roller ran over him, and his opponent got 1,219 more votes. However, in 1938, he ran again, and won by 7,000 votes. Today his occupation is attorney and Circuit Court Commissioner, with many aptitudes, interests and hobbies.

Either for people who see, and do not realize the capacities of the blind, or for the blind, who have not realized their own opportunities, that is the significant thing about C. LaVerne Roberts—the number of ways in which he participates in life.

He has built up a law practice, which began in 1937, when he was able to hang out his shingle with desk-room and a part-time stenographer. His first client came in eleven days later, a man who wanted a will drawn, and who probably did not sense the eagerness of the unusual lawyer he had found. Other clients came slowly, among them a Negro charged with assault, his first criminal case, which he won, and then clients came faster.

His commissionership carries no salary, but does pay fees, and brings clients—and he now has his own office. As commissioner, he has chiefly to hear cases involving eviction of tenants and foreclosure of land contracts, also to conduct occasional mortgage sales, when he stands on the Court House steps and reads the court order in Braille.

His cases as commissioner bring all sort of life patterns. Recently, a landlord didn't like a tenant who, though on relief, kept six hunting dogs. And there was the deputy sheriff who came with a problem—after evicting a tenant, the family cat insisted on returning to the house through a hole in the cellar window.

His law practice includes some criminal cases, with more real estate, collection and divorce actions. He has also been appointed trustee in several bankruptcies, a kind of work particularly suited to a blind attorney.

"Law is slow, you can't advertise, you can't solicit," he says, "but while it goes forward slowly, it seldom recedes, if you do your work conscientiously."

One of the simple things he had to learn after admission to the bar was writing his signature with a pen. For law, that is absolutely necessary, but it isn't easy. A friend patiently taught him to do it. All his writing had been done on a typewriter, or by dictation.

He is an organization man, with interests indicated by membership in the Knights of Pythias, North Side Commercial Luncheon Club, Audubon Society (county and state), Tuesday Evening Music Club, Bar Association, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Men's Bible Class in the First Baptist Church.

His hobbies are music, birds, good reading, animals and travel, though he has not yet been able to get enough of the latter.

He likes symphonic music, and collects good albums, as well as out-of-the-way single records, like Big Ben in London, a Moslem call to prayer made in Cairo, locally recorded South Sea island and American Indian music,



and recordings made by famous people.

He plays the piano, mostly for his own pleasure, but also as an accompanist for singing at organization meetings.

In reading, he likes politics, travel, history, sociology, reads rapidly in Braille. He takes The Braille Mirror



C. LaVERNE ROBERTS

and Braille Reader's Digest, and has his secretary give him the gist of the newspapers. He has a talking book machine, but regards it as a lazy man's way of reading, with the disadvantage that you cannot find out how unusual words are spelled—he likes to know.

Reading creates an interest in writing good letters, chiefly good business letters. Last year, in November, he wrote a collection letter that brought excellent results, based on a reminder that Christmas was coming, and that among good things to have around Christmas was good credit, the reputation for paying one's bills promptly.

Birds provide an outdoor interest suited to the blind, and with Dr. Albert Brand's records of bird calls, he has learned to identify more than forty different species found around Lansing, having them checked for him. This is more than many sighted persons can identify, and pursuit of birds involves much healthful hiking.

He owns a Seeing Eye dog, and finds her a great help, and a perfect lady, although her name is "Teddy."

While not yet married, he frankly says that he hopes to be, some day, and believes that it is preferable for a blind person to marry a seeing person, for the sake of the wider contacts needed by the sightless member of the family.

And although he is deeply interested in work for the blind, at one time serving as vice-president of the Michigan Association of Workers for the Blind, most of his own associations are with sighted people, and he has found that such associations are necessary for a blind person who wants to go into a profession.

"After all, just because two persons do not see, that does not, in itself, give them any common bond," he concludes. "We should select our friends entirely on the basis of mutual interests, whether they see or not. If two persons like music, they have a common bond; if they like politics, they have a common bond—and so it goes. I have many friends around the state, and locally, among the blind. But quite apart from common interests, there are not enough blind persons to round out one's life, and the blind should therefore cultivate as wide a circle of sighted friends as possible."



# SOME DON'TS TO DO

## A GUIDE FOR THE SIGHTED

*For Social and Business Contacts with  
the Blind*

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

*Vice-President and Managing Director  
BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.*

1. Don't treat the blind as abnormal human beings, simply because they cannot see physically. Remember that about nine out of every ten blind persons you meet lost their sight in mature years. In any event, they are interested in the things that you like to see, hear, read about, and discuss.

2. Don't talk to a blind person as though he were deaf; the fact that he cannot see is no indication he cannot hear well.

3. Don't address a blind person through his companion or guide, thereby presuming he has a child's mentality.

4. Don't refer to blindness as an affliction; it is only a physical handicap reduced to a 25 per cent minimum by many of the blind.

5. Don't pity a blind person, nor express sympathy for him in his presence.

6. Don't exclaim "wonderful" or "marvelous" merely because a blind person may do many of the normal things such as consult his watch for the correct time; dial the telephone; sign his name in longhand, etc.

7. Don't talk of a "sixth sense" or "providential compensation" and so perpetuate an obstinate delusion. The extraordinary talent is often merely the development of latent mental resources.

8. Don't try to "carry" a blind per-

son when assisting him to cross the street, to enter a vehicle, or to mount the stairs. You need only guide his hand to the handle or rail; he will do the rest.

9. Don't, when assisting a blind person to a chair, turn him around abruptly, and then push him into it. Simply place his hand on the back or arm of the chair; this gives him its location. That is enough.

10. Don't angle when guiding a blind person across the street; walk straight across, if possible; otherwise you may upset his reckoning and cause him to stumble when approaching the curb.

11. Don't push a blind person ahead of you anywhere. Let him take hold of your arm. The motion of your body informs him what to expect, usually. In narrow passages or aisles, where this rule cannot be practiced, you should walk ahead of the blind person and let him follow.

12. Don't think that a blind guest is an unusual responsibility, needing someone to dress, bib, and feed him.

13. Don't think it abnormal when a blind person asks for the location of electric light switches in the home or office. Often this helps him to "light" the way for others, and quite often he himself prefers a lighted room.

14. Don't ascertain if a blind guest prefers sugar in his tea by addressing



his companion. A blind man once said to me, with a good deal of zest, that nothing annoyed him more than to have his hostess ask of his daughter, "Does your father take sugar in his tea?"

15. Don't make unusual revision of conversation to avoid using the word "see" by substituting the word "hear" or "heard." Use the word "blind" without hesitation if you are discussing blindness with persons so handicapped, but don't substitute this topic for the weather.

16. Don't fail to speak, if only a word, on entering a room in which there is a blind person; it announces your presence and helps him to identify you.

17. Don't fail to shake hands when meeting or leaving a blind friend. To him, a cordial handshake, substitutes for a friendly smile.

18. Don't waste your time or the blind person's by asking, "Do you know who this is?" or by saying, "Now guess who I am." And, "Now, don't tell me you don't know me!" Unless you are very well acquainted with the person blinded, and unless the surroundings are very quiet, it is better quietly to say, "This is Mr. \_\_\_\_\_," when greeting a blind friend.

19. Don't leave a blind person abruptly after conversing with him in a crowd, or where there is noise that may obstruct his hearing, without quietly advising him that you are leaving. Otherwise, he may find himself in the embarrassing position of talking when no one is listening, thus making himself conspicuous.

20. Don't fail to inform the blind person where the speaker's platform is located at public gatherings when a

public address system is used. This will enable him to face the speaker, rather than the nearest amplifier, much to his embarrassment.

21. Don't fail to tell a blind guest who the other guests are, so that he may know of their presence.

22. Don't leave a door ajar in the home or office where there is a blind person. Always keep it closed or flung wide open, flush against the wall. A half-opened door is the most dangerous obstacle blind people encounter. You, with normal eyesight, who have collided with a half-opened door in the dark, fairly cracking the cranium, can appreciate fully this admonition.

23. Don't leave any unusual object in a passageway or other place where blind people are in the habit of walking.

24. Don't slam shut the door of an automobile wherein is a blind passenger without making sure that his hands are out of the way. His fingers are his stock in trade, and a danger besets him here unless caution is practiced.

25. Don't force the approaching blind pedestrian to give you the right-of-way. Remember, every time you cause a blind person to vary from his general course, to get out of your way, you cause him to lose his bearing. Figuratively, this sets him on the high seas without a compass.

26. Don't say "right" when you mean "left" while steering a blind pedestrian. My observation is that ninety per cent of the people make this blunder. It could cause loss of life or a serious accident. On one occasion, it caused me to plunge headlong into a ditch in the streets of El Centro, California, years ago. In this case, my informant was standing on a street cor-

(Continued to Page 15)



# THINGS LEARNED FROM BLIND CHILDREN

By RUTH EVELYN HENDERSON

Educational Assistant to National Director, Junior Red Cross

(From *The Red Cross Courier*, January 1940)

THE Junior Red Cross at National Headquarters recently sent a set of toy patterns to the Virginia State School for the Blind at Staunton, asking for advice. The staff wanted to know which of these toys the blind children would enjoy having the Junior Red Cross make for them. The answer was helpful. Part of it was surprising.

"There are some of the patterns that I believe our children can handle," wrote Mrs. Genevieve Coville, the principal. "They could make these toys to put in their baskets to the local orphanage and to our underprivileged children."

The discovery that blind children could enjoy making toys for others was pleasant news, although the idea of having the Junior Red Cross in blind schools was no novelty. Even in the Staunton school itself, the Junior Red Cross had been carrying on many of its regular activities successfully for some years.

Just before our letter was sent to Staunton, there came this from thirteen children of the third grade at Overbrook, Pa.:

"Our class would like to join the Junior Red Cross. We are going to have a meeting every week. We are sending fifty cents to pay for our membership. May we have membership pins? We will try to be good Junior Red Cross members. We all liked the cards and braille books received from the Red Cross."

Their teacher, Miss Dorothy R. Hart-

man, later wrote: "This morning each one brought in his share of pennies toward our membership fee. As the pupils said in their letter, all those lovely greeting cards and books sent to them have been greatly enjoyed and appreciated. By becoming members of the Junior Red Cross, they too will have an opportunity to serve others."

These things emphasize the likeness of blind children to all children. As the mother of a little blind boy once wrote:

"Billy tells me he wishes for just one thing, that is to know just what and how other children really think of him; whether they consider him blind or if they forgot about it as it often seems. His friends so often forget about it entirely."

Junior Red Cross friendship with schools for the blind was begun about ten years ago, when Miss Boardman grew interested in having Anna Milo Upjohn's book, *Friends in Strange Garments*, brailled for these schools. Since the edition was too large for hand transcription of individual copies, Mrs. C. D. Watson of Madison, New Jersey, was given the assignment to press-braille it.

The resulting contact with Junior members interested her in working out an activity whereby the senior Red Cross braillists and the Junior Red Cross could collaborate. Six Chapters in which the Braille Service owns presses for duplicating, now print Junior Red Cross stories as an important part of the Chapter program. Two other large Chapters have also collaborated



for several years. Those Chapters where senior volunteers are now helping or have helped in the past are the Madison, Glen Ridge, Newark, and Monmouth County in New Jersey, Washington, D. C., Springfield, Mass., Philadelphia, and New York City.

Junior Red Cross members throughout the United States make covers for about 5,000 such stories every year. Since the necessary expense is borne by the National Children's Fund, every member has a part in this activity, even though he may not have actually made a cover.

Once a year, usually at Easter, brailled greeting cards are sent to the blind schools. These have less intrinsic value for the recipients than the stories or the toys, but they are important. About 10,000 Juniors make covers for these little greeting cards, which increases their interest in the blind.

In the early years of developing Junior Red Cross service in schools for the blind, one of the first things we discovered was that the covers for the brailled short stories, sent annually as individual gifts, should be pretty in color. The members themselves began experimenting soon with raised designs to illustrate the stories covered. These proved popular. With regard to the enjoyment of color, Miss Hartman wrote in the letter already quoted:

"Since only three members of our class are totally blind, the rest have enough sight to enjoy pictures and other visual aids."

The discovery that blind children en-

joy receiving very much the same kind of toys that the Juniors were already making for other children's institutions, came as still another surprise.

Like all children, the blind prefer the things that go to those that sit still. They like things that can be manipulated. Emphasis must be put on what is tangible, rather than on the merely visible. All children develop largely through their instinct to touch and move



Junior Red Cross in Erie, Pennsylvania, makes toys for blind comrades.

and to make things go. This is especially true of a blind child. His hands gain a cleverness that makes up in part for what is denied to his eyes. On almost any kind of animal, ears that can be wiggled are still more of a delight to a blind child than to a child with full sight.

The kind of toy that appeals to a child with sight because of being out of proportion or a caricature of the real thing, is likely to do nothing for the blind child other than to give him a distorted impression of the reality. A wooden horse should have four legs distinguishable to the fingers, instead of straight sticks with the joints marked by paint.

(Continued to Page 18)



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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In the California Bay Region, newspapers recently acclaimed the rare talent of Robert Brereton, 18-year-old Berkeley pianist. According to the Oakland *Post-Enquirer* his "sensitive and agile fingers open up a magic world of sound and harmony—a world that to most of us is closed." Despite a handicap of blindness, Robert is now on his way to a promising career as a concert pianist. His senses of touch and hearing have been developed to a remarkable degree. In a speeding motor car, for instance, when you are driving about 55 miles an hour, he would say the vibration has risen to C sharp. For safety's sake, he thinks it's time to slow down. The talent and keenness of "Bobbie" Brereton have been known to the Braille Institute since he was a little fellow about five years old. At that time, when he called at the Institute, the staff was always amazed at the facility and swiftness with which he put together a jig-saw puzzle made up of the 48 States of the Union.

\* \* \*

Bowling is a popular recreational pastime for over sixty blind men and women who use the Lighthouse bowling alley in New York every weekday night. Players guide themselves entirely by touch and sound. Many achieve excellent scores.

\* \* \*

The highest honor in Boy Scoutdom,

the Eagle badge, was conferred recently on Tony Adam, 18, of Los Angeles. The award was made at the Highland Park Methodist Episcopal Church, where he is a member. Hard of hearing and nearly blind since birth, Tony earned his Scout honors the hard way. In addition to his Eagle badge, he received an award for civic service and a five-year veteran award. His 25 merit badges almost cover the shirt of his Scout uniform. His badge for bird study was not earned by going into the fields as other youths do—but in the County Museum where he studied bird life.

\* \* \*

Genevieve Wiley, singer and composer of Pasadena, should have a great big "hand" for the publication of her first musical composition. "The Little Pig" was released March 20, 1941, according to a bulletin from Fenner Publications, 1017 South Westlake Avenue, Los Angeles. On several occasions when Miss Wiley has sung this number on programs for the Braille Institute it has been enthusiastically received. You can obtain The Little Pig either at your music dealer or through Fenner Publications.

\* \* \*

Two blind boys from the Norwich Institution for the Blind in England joined the staff of fire watchers recently. "Their expert hearing more than compensated for their loss of sight,"



another watcher said, "and both have become very proficient in the use of pumps."

\* \* \*

From Olympia, Washington, comes word of Nels B. Helland, blind for 35 years, who ranks as one of the State's most successful farmers, in spite of his handicap. Now 70, Helland continues to carry on his farm duties with deftness and efficiency. He has a herd of 16 cows on his 80-acre tract, ten miles south of Olympia. He has seen only six of his ten children.

\* \* \*

Born without hearing, Charles Craig was educated at the Indiana School for the Deaf where he learned a cabinet-maker's trade. However, he loved the soil and he became a farmer. He couldn't hear the song of birds nor the music of the waterfall. But he could see the red breast of the robin; the sweep of his modest farm; and he loved the sight of the dark earth as it curled richly away from his plow. When blindness struck, it was the tender sympathy of a sister who helped dispel the gloom and who urged him to return to the trade he learned as a boy. For 57 years Charles Craig has lived in a silent world and for 25 years, that world has been a perpetual blackout. His shop in Garden Grove, California, is well equipped with drills, punches, mortise saws, hammers and other woodworking equipment. Everything is in order and he knows where everything is. He lives a surprisingly normal life, playing checkers and visiting

with his friends, especially among the deaf. Most of all he enjoys a "sight-seeing" trip to Los Angeles and a visit with one of his deaf friends there.

\* \* \*

Margaret Hale, 25, is not letting blindness prevent her from holding a job as caseworker with the Family Welfare Association, Omaha. Her visits and reports are made just as any other social worker would, except she keeps her notes in Braille. Last summer she received her master of science degree in social work at the University of Nebraska. She has a helper to read incoming mail and other caseworkers' reports. She dictates to a machine but does her own typing, using the touch system with considerable speed.



*Photo: The World-Herald, Omaha.*

Margaret Hale uses her Braille slate to make entries in a case record.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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## *Blind Welfare—Privately Administered*

Often we are asked: "Of what does your social welfare consist?"

Perhaps the following incident will give the best answer:

Mid-forenoon one day, a telephone call came for help. Yes, it might properly be called an S. O. S. in the fullest sense of the term. A blind woman was in distress. She had no food in the house and to make matters worse, no fuel for cooking it if she had, nor heat to keep her warm. That morning her gas had been turned off as the previous month's bill had not been paid.

This woman had applied for aid under California's law for Aid to the Needy Blind. She was eligible for that aid. But while her eligibility was being substantiated, she was without food and destitute. This must not be construed as any reflection against California's most liberal law to the needy blind. Law is law and the requirements must be fulfilled. This is as it should be.

But the incident does show the need for and the place the private welfare

agency for the blind fills in our social and economic structure.

How does it do this? Here's the answer:

A check for \$8.50 was sent immediately by the Braille Institute to provide food and restore the gas service. The check was sent by special delivery so that the needed help was given that day—not the next.

But in a larger sense, everything the Braille Institute does for the blind, every service rendered, may be construed as contributing to their social welfare. Help the blind socially and you improve their economic outlook and opportunities. Contribute to their economic welfare, and you help them socially.



## *Self-Instruction Primers*

The Braille Institute's self-instruction course in Braille reading, designed especially for the blind and members of their families living in rural or remote districts, seems to be meeting a long-felt need. This course is of tremendous value, also, to home teachers who are called upon to teach the blind in rural communities and who, because of distance and other limitations, find it impossible to visit their pupils often, if at all.

The following is an extract from a letter received from a pupil who had completed the Grade One Primer with gratifying results:

"Nine months ago I was given my first lesson in touch reading by a home teacher. Eight months after first starting, I was given the Braille Institute primer. From then on I made rapid progress and am now reading my first book in Grade One and a Half. I feel that the speeding up of teaching Braille



could be accomplished best by giving the beginner literature everyone is familiar with. . . . Your Kipling's 'If' and the Gettysburg Address were just what I was looking for and from then on I began to be interested and made rapid progress."

The course consists of three primers. The first, a primary course, takes the pupil through Grade One. This primer includes a section of instructions in ink-print showing clearly how sighted members of the family, or friends, can assist the blind pupil in its mastery.

The second course takes the pupil through Grade One and a Half. It is purely self-instructive, all the explanatory material being printed in Grade One. Thus the pupil, having already mastered the Grade One Primer, can teach himself the Grade One and a Half code.

The third and final course prepares the pupil to read Grade Two, the most highly contracted code in common use, the instructions, tables and drills being printed in Grade One and a Half.

The price of the complete course, in three primers, bound in pamphlet form, is \$1.50. The primers may be purchased separately as needed, at fifty cents each, postage prepaid.



### *Sight Restored*

Another incident showing the need for private welfare may well be cited here.

A woman was rapidly going blind. Her husband was out of employment except for a little W. P. A. work and this had been suspended. Investigation showed the husband was a thrifty man, resourceful, too; that he had done everything conceivable to obtain employment and to keep it. Worse still,

the investigation showed that he was brooding over his failure to support his wife and to furnish her with proper attention to avert if possible her blindness.

The facts disclosed that if the woman could be supplied with a certain contact lens she could have 20/50ths vision restored. This would take her out of the category of blindness and put her into the class of the sighted.

But this lens is costly—at least to persons out of employment and with means scarcely sufficient to supply food and shelter. Without the lens, this woman was so blind as to be eligible for \$50 a month aid under the California law. And the State would be more than willing to give her aid. But the law has no provision for furnishing funds for the lens that would restore her vision sufficiently to put her in the sighted class.

In other words, the State would allow this worthy woman aid in the amount of \$50 a month, year in and year out, yet it had no provision—no pocket into which it could dig down deep, and give her \$37.50 for a contact lens which would not only remove the necessity of giving her aid to the extent of \$50 a month, but likely restore to her as well, economic and social security enhanced by a much greater and happier outlook on life.

The lens was obtained. The woman can now say, "whereas I was blind, I now see." But unlike the man in the Gospel narrative, she *knows* how it came about. She knows that through the Braille Institute as a medium and the financial help of the Elks Club (B. P. O. E. No. 99), encouraged by one of its members, Earl Houk, county adjudicator for the blind, Department of Charities, the lens was bought.

(Continued to Page 15)



# A BLIND "GO-GETTER"

By MARIANNE GARVER

Mops by the ton. Brushes, with imported Siberian bristles, for the United States Navy. Thousands of sleeping bags for Boy Scouts. Rubber mats for church foyers. Baskets, dozens of different kinds. Camp and cot pads. Clothes hampers. Leather goods, suspenders, belts, tobacco pouches, wallets, key cases, with license compartment and zippers.

And what'll you have?

All these, and perhaps more, may be secured from the Long Beach sales branch of the Industrial Workshop for the Blind, where Earl Breckenridge is general manager, sales manager, bill collector and office boy.

Naturally, all these products are made by the blind and fit in with the motto "where handicraft has overcome handicap."

Originally, Breckenridge was a salesman for the Los Angeles shop in the Long Beach field. And since he is a good salesman, he brought in orders. He found he was at a disadvantage, however, by not having a sales and storeroom in the territory from which he could make prompt deliveries.

Last fall, with the help of the Braille Institute, he engaged living and office quarters at 1060 Cherry Street, Long Beach. From this location he is operating a salesroom that promises to grow into a thriving business.

When the Los Angeles shop is unable to fill the orders, he calls on San Diego, and between the two he tries to keep his customers happy.

Breckenridge also takes care of repairs on the market baskets that are so generally in use in your favorite "cash and carry." This part of the work gives employment to a score of sightless workers in Long Beach.

The order for mops by the ton comes from a large grocery distributor.

Seven new brushes have been made since the Long Beach location was opened, with particular emphasis on the brushes for Uncle Sam's big boats that come into Los Angeles Harbor. It was one of these that prompted the manufacture of the deck broom with the imported Siberian bristles, which is no ordinary brush, you may be sure.

And when little Tommy goes to the next Boy Scout Campo-



Winstead Bros. Photo, Long Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Breckenridge in the office at 1160 Cherry St.



ral, you can be assured that he'll have a good night's rest if his sleeping bag comes from the Industrial Workshop for the Blind.

The rubber mats, which are one of the most important items on the workshop list, are used in fountains and bars, behind the counter, as well as in churches, it seems. But of course, a mat has no choice as to its ultimate stomping ground.

Mr. and Mrs. Breckenridge, who live at the Cherry Street address, are both very enthusiastic about the business there. Mrs. Breckenridge is a helpmeet indeed, as she watches the shop and answers the phone when her husband is out rustling sales.

They have two daughters, the older, Earlene Blanch, 11, is now in Berkeley, at the California School for the Blind. Jeane Louise, age 7½, attends the Long Beach public schools and her mother is looking forward to the time when the youngster can take music lessons, a talent for which she seems to have an aptitude.

Oh, yes, those little shopping carts, that the housewife can run along on wheels and save the wear and tear on market days, are also available at the workshop for the blind. And a basket for Fido or Tabby will be just as correct as a bassinet for the wee little feller.

Remember, when there is a household need for any of these numerous articles, "help handicraft overcome handicap."

## SOME DON'TS TO DO

(Continued from Page 7)

ner facing me as I started across the street. Observing that I was angling too far to my right towards the intersection where the street was torn up, he shouted, "To the right!" Naturally, I kept veering to my right, all the time heading straight for the ditch until I landed at the bottom of it. He really meant for me to steer to my left, which was to his right as he faced me.

27. Don't fail to offer assistance to a blind pedestrian who is crossing the street or boarding a trolley. It may be that your assistance sometime has been rejected or even resented by a blind person who fancied he did not need your help. If so, remember many others do need it and will give thanks.

N.B. Any person convicted of disregarding these "Don'ts" will be fined \$5 for the first offense; \$25 for the second; \$100 for the third by the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., plus all costs in collecting the fines.



Winstead Bros. Photo, Long Beach.

Display of blind made products.



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [~·

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*Rhode Island Association for the Blind*, Providence, R. I. A two-day show was held recently by this Association at which the blind demonstrated their ability to operate complicated machines and perform difficult tasks.

\* \* \*

*Industrial Workshops for the Blind*, California. In a recent Associated Press dispatch from Washington, D. C., announcement was made of a contract awarded to the Industrial Home for the Blind, Oakland, for 17,000 cotton pillowcases for the Army. The Los Angeles Workshop, now employing 82 blind persons, has been making sheets, turkish towels and pillowcases for the past year and has enough orders on hand to keep busy through next July. These are two of the 22 workshops scattered throughout 12 states that have been making four million pillowcases for Army camps.

\* \* \*

*National Library for the Blind*, Washington, D. C. Hon. Thomas P. Gore, president, officiated at the annual meeting which took place January 16. Dr. Paul Sperry, director, reported 21,282 volumes of Braille and Moon type on the shelves and 1,655 containers of talking books. The library, founded thirty years ago to provide books and to furnish useful employment for the blind, is staffed by ten sightless workers.

\* \* \*

*New York Association for the Blind*, New York, N. Y. Courses in photography and beauty culture are among the most popular recreational activities

of blind women at the Lighthouse, according to announcement by Mrs. Antoinette C. Nash, director of the women's recreation department. Of the 150 sightless girls and women between the ages of 14 and 70, sixty have enrolled for these two courses. Journalism and current events classes are next in popularity with an enrollment of forty.

\* \* \*

*Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind*, Philadelphia, Penna. Gayle Burlingame, founder of the Federation, has been appointed executive secretary of the State Council for the Blind, by Governor James. Mr. Burlingame's activity in connection with the Federation, founded in 1936, has brought his work to the attention of the field. The Federation works for legislation in behalf of the blind; publishes *We, the Blind*. Its twelve branches throughout the State have about 4,000 dues-paying members, perhaps one of the largest organizations of the blind in the world.

\* \* \*

*Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation*, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Miss Roberta A. Griffith, executive secretary, passed away January 24, after a brief illness. By her will, the Association House at 338 Sheldon Avenue goes to the Grand Rapids Association for the Blind and for Sight Conservation, and the work will go on from this address. Activities include a day school for blind adults; summer school for Braille and sight-saving class children; social center for the blind; eye clinic; employment bureau.



*Lions Club*, Berkeley, California. B. Reede Hardman, chairman of the Broadcast Committee of this club, announces that his committee has taken over the radio broadcasts started nearly five years ago by Mr. Henry Bindt. These broadcasts include interviews with outstanding sightless persons, with members of organizations serving the blind, and discussion of legislation concerning the blind. They are heard over Station KRE, Berkeley.

\* \* \*

*Museum of the City of New York*. Permanent exhibits will be constructed in miniature for the education of blind children under a plan worked out by the educational department of the Museum and the research and records department of the WPA. The reproductions will make possible the touch method of education. The first of a series to be reproduced with all its varied detail will be the Dutch alcove in the costume gallery. The exhibit is replete with 17th-century furnishings from costumed mannikins to footwarmers on a hearth. The walls of the exhibit will be hinged so that the children may examine, by touch, the entire room, its contours and furnishings.

\* \* \*

*National Society for the Prevention of Blindness*, New York, N. Y. Offices of this Society have been moved to 1790 Broadway. The new location, near Columbus Circle, provides easy access to most modes of transportation. Members and friends are cordially invited to visit its new headquarters. New members added to the industrial advisory committee include: Dr. Alice Hamilton, consultant to the United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Morton G. Lloyd, chief, sec-

tion on safety codes, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Harold L. Miner, safety director, DuPont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Delaware; Dr. John J. Wittmer, New York, N. Y., representing the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons.

\* \* \*

*Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind*, Philadelphia. The 59th annual meeting of this Society was held January 22, 1941. Activities of the Society are limited to "the instruction of the blind in the art of reading by means of books printed in embossed or raised Moon type or other characters at their homes and elsewhere, and to establish and operate by itself or through the medium of others a free circulating library or libraries of books printed in said type or other characters for the use of the blind." Five full-time teachers and one half-time made 6,000 visits to 1,115 pupil-clients, according to the report for the year.

\* \* \*

*Lighthouse for the Blind*, New Orleans, La. Eleven days ahead of schedule, seven blind men here completed a defense contract. At the rate of 75 dozen a day, the men shipped the final 7,500 of 22,500 mops for the Army to the quartermaster depot at Atlanta, March 20. The shipment was not due until April 1.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution for the Blind*, Watertown, Mass. A Braille thermometer created in cooperation with the Standard Thermometer, Inc., Boston, is mentioned by *Business Promotion* as a means of creating good will for advertisers of a product and aiding a worthy cause as well.



# THINGS LEARNED FROM BLIND CHILDREN

(Continued from Page 9)

Part of the visual handicap is made up by hearing. There is a compensating sensitiveness and a concentration of attention on sounds. A little bell on the outside or a whistle or squeak placed within, adds much to a toy for a blind child. One Junior Red Cross group imaginatively attached little brass bells to the corners of the bean-bags they made. A pattern especially good for blind children is the wooden dancing man — a wooden toy on a stick with a board on which he can be made to clog and tap. He appeals to the ear of the blind child as he does to the eyes of the child with sight.

Another point to guard against in the toys for blind children, is use of too fragile material, such as light cardboard. It is sometimes hard for a child not to injure an article, when "seeing" with the fingers.

Junior Red Cross members have also learned to choose mediums that are agreeable to touch. Sandpaper is a repellant medium for raised designs on story covers; and though oilcloth toys are enjoyed, they are not as pleasant to touch or as cuddlesome as those made of softer materials. Blind children like to carry little cuddle toys just as other children do. A class studying life of the tropics in geography, learned from stuffed jungle beasts—a gingham giraffe, a cotton flannel elephant, and a tiger whose tail was made of rope, unravelled at the end.

Stories to be brailled are chosen for enjoyability, and not on the basis of textbook material. An effort is made to find stories not already available in schools and libraries. Many have been selected from the files of the *Junior Red Cross News and Journal*. These selec-

tions have been the means of coaxing youngsters through some of the more difficult stages of learning to read with the fingers. Owning a book with the privilege of taking it home to keep, is an incentive to learn.

The boys and girls with sight who make the toys and the story covers are naturally delighted with the notes of acknowledgment written by the blind children.

The pupils of Saint Mary's School at Lansdale, Pennsylvania, have always written especially gracious letters of thanks. One of them read:

"Dear Juniors:—We appreciate your very kind thought of us in sending the interesting short stories. We only regret that we were so tardy in sending our acknowledgment of your generous gift.

"The designing is beautiful: covers, pictures, and ribbon ties contribute to their attractiveness. They stand for hours and hours of labor, we fully realize.

"May we wish you the very happiest of summer vacations. May it be filled with many happy hours, and we add a very sincere: 'God bless you.'"

Often the letters of thanks are typed by the blind pupils in their typewriting classes. Out of courtesy to a Junior Red Cross staff member visiting their school, members in the typing class in the State School in Virginia typed neat and exactly proportioned Red Cross symbols with a friendly line of presentation. The same class produced silhouettes of turkeys, Christmas trees, and other designs on their typewriters.

Both pupils and teachers have been gracious in their expressions of appreciation. However, the most im-



portant thing that the Junior Red Cross has been learning from the blind is a deep admiration for the achievements realized in spite of their handicap. One recipient of stories — an eleven-year-old boy—instead of enrolling in a blind institution, has remained at home and attended his regular school. He has kept up with his age level and shows a good record of A's.

The State schools meet educational requirements of their regular schools, grade for grade. Naturally the children in these special schools have more advantages than are possible in their private homes and the ordinary day school.

Nevertheless, many of the schools encourage pupils to return home for at least the final years of high school so that they will grow into their own communities socially, and find it easier to make vocational adjustments. Here is another opportunity to which Junior Red Cross members will be increasingly alert; that is, the opportunity to develop friendship for these boys and girls

(Continued to Page 20)

## A Penny A Day

In these days when there are so many calls for help from worthy charitable and relief organizations, it seems well to remind readers of *Light* that even "a penny a day drives darkness away." This plan was originated by Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes and subscribers are invited to write to the Braille Institute for a pig bank which, when carefully tended for a year, will yield 365 pennies for the Institute's blind welfare funds.

Receipt of a pig bank by one of our contributors in Monrovia prompted the following comment: "I have my Braille piggy and already have quite a few pennies in it. Was surprised to receive such a cunningly designed affair. I hold up all my friends and neighbors who drop in and keep the tag on as a reminder and inspiration. Really am proud of it. Thanks a million."

Subscribers to this plan now include school children, teachers, authors, movie producers and directors, actors, opera singers, railway executives, brokers, judges, secretaries, stenographers, purchasing agents, housewives, merchants, salesmen, doctors, lawyers, and too many others to list here.

To all who are taking part in this campaign by saving as little as "a penny a day," the Braille Institute extends its thanks, and issues a cordial invitation to others to join. A Mexican pottery pig bank will be sent on request and you, too, can help "drive darkness away."



Braille Pig Looking for a Home!





THINGS LEARNED FROM BLIND CHILDREN  
(Continued from Page 19)

when they come home for vacations or when they leave the institutions where life has been especially planned for them. Members in Syracuse, New York, have for many years held parties for the children who come home.

A number of the schools for the blind are taking part in national and international correspondence exchanges both with schools for the blind and with regular schools, it may be noted.

Junior Red Cross members, then, no longer extend friendly service to blind children merely as a kindness to the handicapped, but as a means of acquaintance with schoolmates who "see in a different way."

Last winter, as an exercise in English classes, members of the Junior Red Cross in Cleveland, Fort Wayne, Louisville and Syracuse, composed the greetings for the Easter cards to be brailled. One young poet in the seventh grade composed this:

At Easter time I always send  
A card of greeting to a friend.  
This year I'm sending one to you  
Because you are a dear friend, too.

ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND  
On Sale At  
BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing) ..	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 11.....	.12
5 lbs.....	.50
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 12.....	.15
5 lbs.....	.65
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)....	.15
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured  
on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking .....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men.....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus	2.00
Hill String Lineguide (for longhand writing) .....	2.50

EDITORIAL  
(Continued from Page 13)

Without the philanthropic support of the public, the Braille Institute could do nothing at all for the social and economic welfare of the blind. In fact, had it not been for the financial assistance, given spontaneously by the Elks Club, No. 99, this need could not have been so promptly supplied, as the Institute's social welfare funds at that very time were not sufficient to meet it.

Surely the service given, as narrated here, is philanthropy in the fullest sense of the word—which is just another way of saying "social welfare service."

There are none so blind as leading a horse to water, and he will not drink.  
—Frank Watanabe.

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# HISTORY

THE Braille Institute of America, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the nation's blind. Chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille System, and with its headquarters in Los Angeles, it stands on the Pacific Coast as a memorial to that blind benefactor, Louis Braille, whose ingenuity made truly practical the publication of literature of all kinds in raised print for the blind.

The origin of the Braille Institute dates back to 1919, when an unincorporated, philanthropic institution known as "Universal Braille Press," devoted exclusively to the literary welfare of the blind through the printing of good literature of all kinds in Braille, was established in Los Angeles, California.

Its founding by J. Robert Atkinson was made possible through the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, who on September 13, 1919, pledged a sum of \$25,000 for the purpose, payable \$5,000 a year. The pledge was made on the condition that Mr. Atkinson would assume full responsibility for the establishment and management of such an institution; and in order that he might devote his entire time to the project, the gift included a salary stipulation for the five years. All the conditions of this benevolent contract were faithfully fulfilled.

Between the years 1912 and 1919, Mr. Atkinson had demonstrated his fitness to establish a printing plant for the blind by transcribing into Braille by hand a unique library of scientific work, consisting of more than 960,000 words, bound in 16 large Braille volumes, prepared for his own use. It was this accomplishment that inspired

Mr. and Mrs. Longyear spontaneously to offer financial assistance.

Soon the benevolence of this newly founded publishing plant was felt by the blind of the nation and to some extent the literary service rendered by it benefited many of the English-reading blind of other nations. Gradually, the demands for social and economic welfare service brought the conviction that an institution founded on broader principles was the need, and to accomplish this the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered on September 30, 1929.

Governed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, and established to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, the Braille Institute ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

Since September 1919, therefore, the Braille Institute and the forces which gave rise to its incorporation have been rendering social and economic welfare service to the adult blind in California and the nation to the extent funds permitted; and its literary service has enriched the English-reading blind of the world.

In recognition of this, the work of the Braille Institute was given generous space by Rockwell D. Hunt, A.M., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School, University of Southern California, in his elaborate work, "California and Californians," published in 1932. Perhaps more gratifying still is the fact that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., has merited recognition as a national agency in work for the blind by the editors of the Social Work Year Book of the Russell Sage Foundation.



# YOUR OPPORTUNITY...

To assist the blind in their struggle for self-support. Often a loan of \$25 or \$50 is sufficient to give a blind person a new lease on life.

To give assistance to the needy blind who are not eligible for governmental aid under Federal and State laws. Approximately 60 per cent of the nation's 130,000 blind lost their sight after 50 years of age—beyond the age of rehabilitation for self-support.

To help maintain the Braille Institute Library. This free lending library serves the blind of California and Arizona—a territory assigned to it by the Library of Congress as one of the regional libraries to distribute literature furnished by the United States government. Such literature circulates through the mail free of postage, however the maintenance cost of the library, approximating \$5,000 a year, is borne entirely by the Braille Institute out of general funds or from contributions designated for that purpose.

To furnish free radio service.

To assist with the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, free to the blind or at prices they may be able to pay below the non-profit production cost.

To provide a permanent fund to sustain the manufacturing cost of Braille writers in lots of 100 or more. These writers will be marketed to the blind at cost, no charge to be included therein for development of dies and jigs. To meet the demand already received from the blind all over the nation, funds should be available at once to make their production immediately possible.

To furnish free or subsidized subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine issued to the blind at a special rate of \$3 a year, the cost being about \$6.

Contributions are always needed to maintain these activities. Kindly return the attached coupon with your contribution and you will receive immediately a receipt therefor and be listed among the good friends who have made possible our twenty-one years of welfare service to the blind.

.....  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to take this opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$..... to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."

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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, Inc. • LOS ANGELES

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*July 1941 issue published*

## BOB GRIMES

### Sightless Owner of a Fishing Boat Fleet

By JAMES H. COLLINS

THE natural way to get acquainted with Bob Grimes is to telephone him at his San Francisco office, make a reservation to go fishing on one of his Diesel-powered boats, and spend a happy day among his customers.

That is the way his wife got acquainted. She liked deep sea fishing, went on trips with him, thought he needed somebody to help him with his business, occasionally did help him, and was hired as his secretary. He discovered that a secretary was a real helper, even for such a self-reliant fellow, and so they were married, about a year ago.

Bob Grimes is totally blind, one eye having been destroyed in an accident, while he was tuning up a racing car, and the other is sightless. Some medical men say the optic nerve is gone,

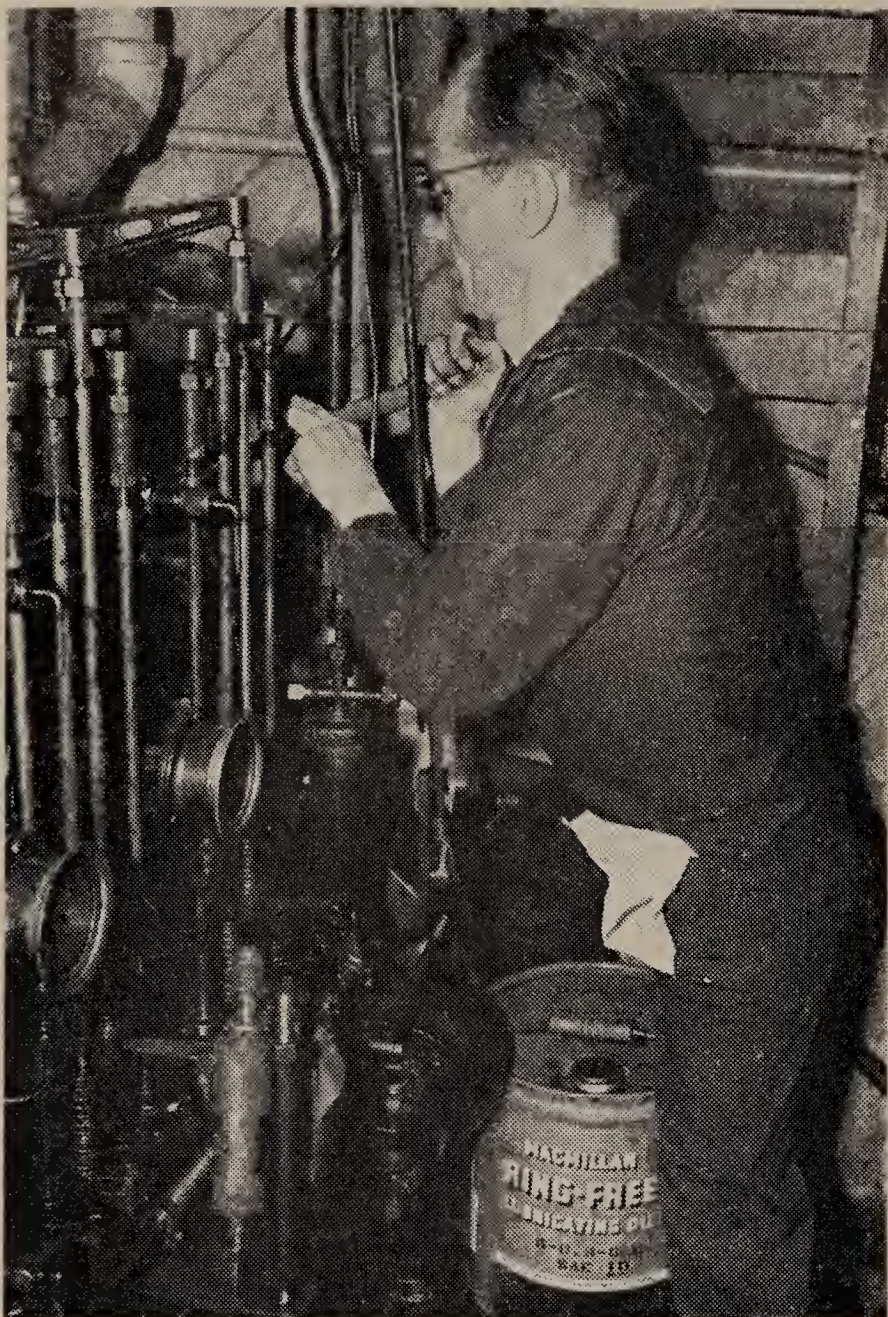
others that it has been affected by shock. Grimes takes the optimistic view, that some day sight may return—but meantime he is in complete darkness.

The accident happened sixteen years ago, when he was a racing automobile driver, and the mental crisis was severe. He was a young, active man, his life had been spent with cars and mechanism, and the prospect of making a change into some sedentary occupation, of the kind presumably suited to a blind man, was pretty drear.

However, even while he was recovering, Grimes resolved to accomplish something unaided, and soon after he was out and around, his new life opened up almost like the emerging image on a photographic plate.

He was walking along the San Francisco yacht harbor with a friend, and





Mechanics form no bar to his happy and expert handling of his fishing boat business. Bob Grimes removes the packing gland on the mechanical oiler of his Atlas diesel powered boat.

the latter said, "There's a craft you could do something with, Bob."

It was an ancient fishing boat, with a large "For Sale" sign, and any land lubber could see that it needed repairs. They went aboard, and Bob studied the engine through his fingers.

"I wonder what kind of mechanic looked after this motor!" he speculated. "But I believe I can do something with it—in fact, I want to put this boat back in condition, just to be sure I can do it."

The craft was purchased, and nobody regarded it as a bargain. By a laborious process of feeling his way, re-learning his trade so that his mechanical ability could be exerted

through his fingers, Grimes soon had both the motor and the boat in such shape that it was sold.

He wanted a bigger boat, and a tougher job, and there could be no argument about the next one needing expert overhauling. She had been badly neglected.

Today she is the sixty-two-foot "Jubilee," flagship of the Bob Grimes deep sea fishing fleet of two boats, the other being the "Lucky Strike," a forty-two-footer.

The "Jubilee" was tougher, all right; but he rebuilt her, and it was the turning point in his life. For in doing so, he definitely learned what he wanted to do, and was capable of doing. He decided that he could operate fishing boats, and with the "Jubilee" he forthwith went into business.

So, he opened an office, advertised for fishermen, learned to make the reservations, handle the telephone calls, and in 1939 needed another boat, which was found

in the "Lucky Strike."

His two boats are today worth at least \$15,000, and the business that he has built upon them, never appraised, must be worth as much more. For every day his two breadwinners leave Pier 3½, San Francisco, with a paying load of fishermen. As they catch fish, he has a steady stream of passengers—and that takes management.

The actual operation of the boats, of course, is in the hands of his captains and crews, but Bob takes care of maintenance.

One evening, the captain of the "Jubilee" came aboard the vessel, lying at her pier, and found everything dark below. But he heard a noise; and



switching on the lights, found his owner busy on the engine.

Bob makes all necessary repairs and adjustments himself, usually at night. He can take off a rocker arm, repack a needle stem, check an unloading valve, repair a spray valve, or if the engine — Atlas diesels — need a complete overhauling, he can take them down and put them together again. He likes, and is at home, with that type of engine.

"The general construction of these Atlas diesel engines makes it easy for me," he says, "and I often think that they must be simple to service for anybody with all their faculties."

Maintenance extends to the boats themselves. He can go from the hold to the tip of the mast, repairing the range light, and for good measure, stop on the way and give the anchor and windlass a shot of oil, or a check-up. Or, he will stroll from one end of the boat to the other, taking a hand in odd jobs, like stringing fishpoles and baiting hooks, and meanwhile giving instructions to the crew.

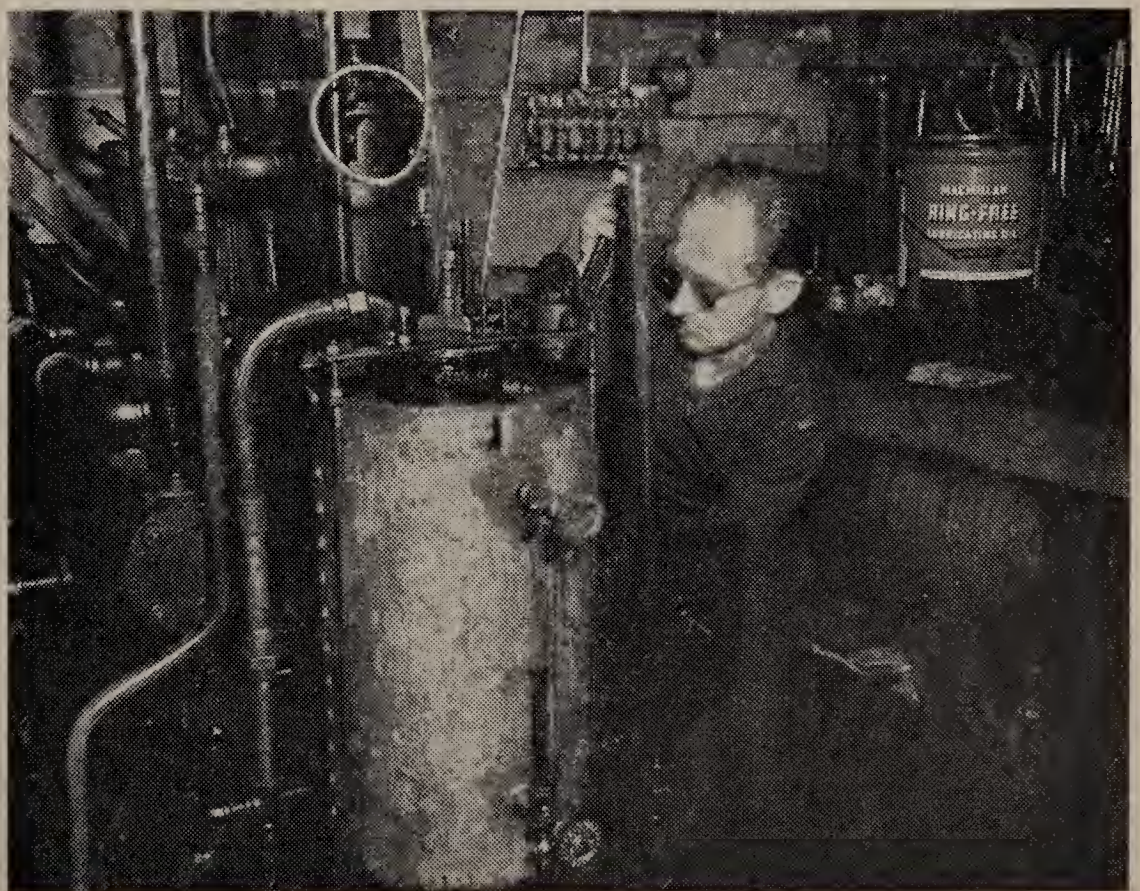
Grimes' mechanical ability is not limited to motors and boats. Anything mechanical is a challenge, especially anything that needs fixing. Some day, he hopes to be able to take a watch apart and put it together again, and he is a capable plumber, and an expert with radios of all types.

Radio is, in fact, his favorite amusement and source of information. Its great advance

has come during the period of his handicap, and he relies upon it more than upon reading to keep abreast of what's going on. Being essentially the kind of fellow who learns more by doing, and from people, than from books, he has not mastered Braille.

When things get too big for him to handle alone, he seeks expert assistance, as in some trouble he had with lubrication in his engines. Valves were sticking, and sludge forming, his boats were delayed, and his costs ran up. He called in one of the Macmillan Petroleum Company's lubrication engineers, and went over the engines with him, until all the difficulties were located. That trouble stopped, and the scheme of more careful lubrication that he worked out as a result of expert advice cut down his motor repairs and repair work.

Recently, Bob was called for the draft, and although he was given a deferred classification, it was not because he is sightless, but because he is married!



Bob Grimes, blind fishing boat operator, checks the high pressure fuel pump of his diesel powered craft, Jubilee, preparatory to sailing through the Golden Gate with a capacity load of 40 fishermen bound for the deep sea fishing grounds offshore.



## Obstacles

Opportunity doesn't always come knocking at your door mounted on a white horse. Opportunity stands beside you every moment, and one of its favorite guises is that of obstacles. There are two things you can do about obstacles. You can sit down with them — shrink in their shadow — nourish them with your belief in their existence; then they will rear their heads proudly, and you will become paralyzed in your ability to conquer them. Or you can look them in the eye—utilize them for good—overcome them—sometimes even annihilate them; and then you will know a richness that nothing else in the world can substitute.

—Beatrice Fenner

The above lines are reproduced in Light with the kind permission of the author, Miss Beatrice Fenner, partially sighted Los Angeles composer and writer. "Obstacles" was written especially for a radio broadcast and immediately acclaimed as "a little masterpiece" and "an inspiration to all who read it."

Best known as a composer, Miss Fenner's songs have been sung by such world famous artists as Amelita Galli-

Curci, Claire Dux, John Charles Thomas and Donald Dickson. But her ability as a writer is unmistakable. Her charming book of poems entitled "Blue Laughter," has been given wide recognition.

Her song, "When Children Pray," was sung three times during 1939 by Donald Dickson on the Chase and Sanborn hour; and is now available on a Victor Red Seal record, sung by John Charles Thomas.



## TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF PROVEN SERVICE

On September 30, 1941, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., completed its twenty-second year of welfare service to the physically blind. To some extent this service has reached the English-reading blind of the world. Nationally, it has included the blind in every walk of life to the extent, of course, that funds make possible. Obviously, the Institute's service to the blind at all times is commensurate with the support which it receives from the general public.

As we begin our twenty-third year of welfare service in behalf of those who are courageously struggling to endure blindness, the trustees and members of the administrative staff feel deeply grateful in the members and contributors whose faithful, loyal support from year to year has made this work possible.

Although steady progress has been made each year, yet, in view of what should be done towards the social security and economic welfare of the blind of the Nation, the Institute's program has hardly begun.

The past twelve years have been difficult for the Braille Institute, just as they have been for all private welfare agencies. Government relief and the high taxes necessary in support of aid to the destitute and unemployed have rendered a hardship upon private agencies that do not receive governmental aid.

The private agency is an indispensable institution, especially in welfare work for the blind. Many are the services it is called upon to render, which governmental agencies, because of restrictive laws, cannot cope with.

President Roosevelt must have had this in mind when, in his radio broadcast appeal for the Community Mobilization for Human Needs, he said in part: "Private agencies in every locality are essential . . . they are of utmost importance in instilling charity or greater love of our fellow beings in the hearts of all of us as individuals . . . It would be a calamity for the Nation and its future if private charity did not exist and grow . . . I am asking each and every individual . . . to contribute something, large or small, toward this great and proven service. You will be helping to build a stronger and better America. . . ."

As its activities for the blind are as much nation-wide as they are local, the Institute does not receive any aid from the Community Chest. To our knowledge, there is no agency in the community engaged *exclusively* in welfare work for the blind, which is a member of the local Community Chest.

Nor does the Braille Institute receive governmental aid of any kind to assist with its social and economic welfare service. We hope all our members and friends and the public at large will bear this in mind when budgeting their charitable donations for the coming year. Contributions, large or small, are helpful and gratefully received at the Braille Institute.

Again, we thank all who, through their generous financial assistance and moral support, have made it possible for the Braille Institute to pass the twenty-second milepost and to begin its twenty-third year of service for the blind.



# SOLVING A NEAT PROBLEM IN CITIZENSHIP

By JOHN MAPPELBECK

UNTIL the "N" registration of aliens, two years ago, Henry Portillo had never thought much about American citizenship.

You see, he had lived in Los Angeles forty years, and might easily have been born this side of the line.

His father used to go back and forth, like many other people of Mexican birth, according to the times and opportunities. It just happened that Henry was born in Juarez, across the International Bridge from El Paso, and when he came with his folks to stay, he was eight years old.

But the alien registration brought home to Henry Portillo, with special stress, the fact that he was not actually an American citizen.

He resolved to become one, made inquiries about the requirements, and discovered that he would have to pass a stiff examination in our mode of government, and our history.

Portillo is a man of quick Latin intelligence, with a good memory, and reads both Spanish and English, and it should have been not too difficult, but for one thing.

He had been blind for eight years, and had never learned to read Braille. Until 1931, he had worked regularly, in a chain bakery, a breakfast food plant, a paper box factory. Then some trouble in his blood brought on impaired sight, and within less than a year he was sightless.

The State of California pays great at-

tention to teaching the blind to read Braille, and learn handicrafts, but none of the teachers knew Spanish.

Portillo's problem was brought to the attention of the Braille Institute of America, and solved by the Institute engaging a blind teacher of Spanish lineage, Mrs. Marie Torres Cooper, who is a volunteer as well as a paid teacher of the blind, giving instruction in handicrafts and Braille, especially to people of Spanish blood who have been blinded in adult life.

Mrs. Cooper was exactly the person needed, and in the latter part of last March they started on the American Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and American history.

As there was no way to give the student a copy of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence that he could read, he learned them by heart, his teacher reading the text, and coaching him, until he was perfect in the spirit as well as the letter. For history, she read summaries and outstanding stories, and Portillo memorized dates. This was easier, because he already knew a good deal about the country he had lived in most of his life. Though he had never had much schooling before going to work, he had been a keen reader of newspapers, and quick at learning things by the American method of free-for-all discussions.

Pupil and teacher made such good progress that, in eight weeks, they appeared at the Federal Building in Los



Angeles, and Portillo passed his examination with flying colors, and got his citizenship papers.

"Which was like being born all over again," he said. "This country has been good to me, has given me every advantage, been the only home I have known, and formally becoming a citizen is a great event."

Since then, under Mrs. Cooper's guidance, he has begun learning Braille.

The first question that arose in Mr. Portillo's mind, and among his friends, was one often asked, "Can the blind qualify for American citizenship?" The answer is, "Yes — ability to read some language is necessary, but persons physically incapable of reading are excepted from that rule." Portillo was able to read two languages before his mishap, and will soon be able to do so again, in Braille.

His story emphasizes the need for more Braille reading matter in the Spanish language. The Braille Institute of America is constantly receiving inquiries from Spanish-reading blind people, not only in this country, but in Mexico, and throughout Latin and South America. Spanish language books and translations are not put into Braille with anything like the prompt and wide publication known in this country and England, and there is a special need for a Spanish Braille magazine to keep Spanish-speaking

blind readers informed of current events.

Mrs. Cooper was not only a teacher specially qualified, by her command of English and Spanish, to give the instruction needed in this case, but has made her place in Los Angeles through her unique qualifications.

She was born here, lost her sight as a child, and went to California School for the Blind at Berkeley, then to Los Angeles Polytechnic, and finally to the University of California in Los Angeles, where she took her A.B. degree.

Teaching has been her avocation and her vocation. She has taken pupils on a volunteer basis as well as for fees, teaches Braille, Spanish and English, along with handicrafts like leather-working and basket-making. She spends a good deal of her time at the Los Angeles Industrial Workshop for the Blind, as a volunteer instructor.



Henry Portillo, with the assistance of his teacher, Marie Torres Cooper, examines the Braille copy of the United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence.—Marshall Perham Photo.



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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About a year ago Alexander Hern began teaching the art of fencing to five blind young men at the Community Center of the New York Guild for the Jewish Blind. Mr. Hern, founder of the American school of fencing, as distinguished from the traditional French and Italian schools, explains that his method of instruction depends on the sense of touch rather than the eye. Thus, he contends, it is possible for persons without sight to become very skilful in the art of the foil. The members of the Guild's fencing team are Patrick Conroy, Isidor Hirshberg, Anthony Oliver and William Solomon. Conroy has a fractional amount of vision, but since all wear masks which do not admit the small amount of light which he can perceive, like the totally blind members of the team he fences without benefit of sight. Mr. Hern got the idea of teaching the sightless when he blindfolded sighted students and found this an effective means of instruction. As it takes at least two years to make a finished fencer, none of the blind foilsmen are yet masters. But they hold their own with swordsmen who can see and are of comparable experience. Special fencing strips, half the regulation three-foot width, are used to guide

the blind pupil. But their sense of direction is so excellent that at the Foils Club, which has a linoleum covered floor, they dispense with mats entirely. With a higher degree of concentration, the progress of these blind fencers has been more rapid than that of those who can see.

♦

"Wings of the Dawn," a book of poems by Robert Kingery Buell of Mountain View, California, is now ready for the press. Mr. Buell is also the author of "Verse Writing Simplified," published by Stanford University Press, and "Silent Speech," a book for the deaf and hard of hearing.



Anthony Oliver, right, blind fencer, in an unprecedented contest with Albert Axelrod, sighted fencer, who holds the titles of Men's Novice Champion and Junior Intermediate Foils Medalist. The contest was won by Axelrod 5 points to 4.



Because riding a horse presented a challenge, Evelyn Smith of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, who lost her sight seven years ago, decided to learn to ride. "It was a dandy challenge, and a person can't go around overlooking challenges. I learned how to ride. As for falling off—now where in the world would I fall but off?" And she did. Twice. However, riding is only one of the obstacles overcome by this girl who is determined to help other blind people live a normal life. At college she is majoring in psychology. She swims, goes to plays and movies and recently was put on the disciplinary board of the dormitory in which she lives. And she goes out "on dates" with a regularity that might be the envy of any coed.



Christmas 1940 was a happier time for the Third Year Junior High School Girls at Ming Sum School, Canton, China, because the officers and men of the British gunboat *Seamew* invited them and several teachers down to the ship. The young visitors were taught how to play on the seesaw and how to go down the steep slide. They were surprised when they found they could play the concertina, after hearing some good music. A most interesting feature of the party was the opportunity to feel the guns, cannon and paper decorations. After a party, with sandwiches and cakes, the sightless guests were allowed to take home the paper decorations and each was given a gay festoon and flowers for her hair.

Clint Russell of Duluth, Minnesota, recently defended his title as world champion blind golfer against Marvin Shannon, blind attorney of Dallas, Texas. Russell scores in the 90's, making his shots after the caddie has described the lie, distance and hazards and has placed the proper club in stroking position behind the ball.



A blind deaf mute is now an amateur radio operator. In New York, Leo Sadowsky, 21, passed the Federal Communications Commission tests for a license by feeling the vibrations of the radio code through headphones and by putting his instructions for the diagram of a transmitter on a Braille writer.



An accomplished photographer, Thomas T. Hioki, 44, is blind in one eye and has very imperfect vision in the other. In his studio in Honolulu, he has to use a strong magnifying glass when focusing, but he carries the process clear through, from original composition of his picture to the finished print.



After a valuable diamond ring had gone unnoticed by people with good sight for more than two weeks, it was found by Robert Reid, blind owner of a concession on the ground floor of the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut. He was mopping the floor near his stand with a sponge and found the ring.





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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XIV      October, 1941      Number 1

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## *July Light*

For the benefit of those who may be saving *Light* to be bound, there was no issue for July, 1941. Volume XIII, therefore, had only three issues: October, 1940, January and April, 1941. The current issue is Number 1, Volume XIV.



## *Annual Membership Meeting*

As this issue of *Light* goes to press, an audit of our books for the fiscal year ending September 30 is under way by Floyd K. Brown, certified public accountant.

On November 10, the annual membership meeting will be held for the purpose of electing trustees and to hear reports on all branches of welfare activity maintained during the year.

Due notice of this meeting will be sent and it is hoped all local members will arrange to be present. Members are reminded that in accordance with the by-laws, they direct the affairs of the corporation by electing annually nine trustees who, in turn, appoint or employ the necessary clerical and administrative staff.

A comprehensive report of the year's activities, including the financial report based upon the certified audit, will be published in the January *Light*.

## *A. A. W. B. Convention*

At the nineteenth biennial convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, held in Indianapolis, July 7 to 11, the following officers were elected for the 1941-1943 biennium: President, Peter J. Salmon, Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, N.Y.; First Vice-President, J. Robert Atkinson, Braille Institute of America, Inc., Los Angeles; Second Vice-President, J. C. Lysen, Minnesota Braille and Sight-Saving School, Faribault; Secretary-General, Alfred Allen, Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, Winnetka, Illinois; Treasurer, W. E. Allen, Texas School for the Blind, Austin, Texas.

These officers make up the Executive Committee, while the following constitute the Board of Directors: Benjamin Berinstein, New York City, C. L. Broun, New York, R. V. Chandler, Oakland, California, A. C. Ellis, Louisville, Kentucky, Mrs. Helen B. Jones, Richmond, Virginia, Dr. Berthold Lowenfeld, New York, Dr. Claire Owen, Exeter, Nebraska, Miss Mary L. Sundholm, Buffalo, New York, Dr. S. C. Swift, Toronto, Canada, L. L. Watts, Richmond, Virginia, Dr. S. M. Whinery, Indianapolis, Indiana.

With the election of its vice-president and managing director, J. Robert Atkinson, to the office of first vice-president of the Association, the Braille Institute is given recognition for the part it is taking in the welfare of the blind not only on the Pacific Coast but throughout North America.

Mr. Atkinson was present at the convention and responded to the address of welcome by Mr. James E. Deery, speaking for the Mayor of Indianapolis.

While in the East, he met Mr. O. C. Schroeder, editor of the Lutheran peri-



odicals for the blind, printed on the Institute's press. In Washington, Mr. Atkinson had appointments with the Librarian of Congress, Mr. Archibald MacLeish, his executive assistant, Verner W. Clapp, and Robert A. Voorus, director of the Project, Books for the Adult Blind.

In New York, Mr. Atkinson attended a meeting of a committee appointed by the president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, for the purpose of working out ways and means for the rehabilitation of persons blinded in the national defense program or in the armed forces. In Boston, interviews were held with publishers whose literature is printed on the presses of the Braille Institute.



### *Open House Week*

November 3 to 8, inclusive, will mark the fourth annual open house week at the Los Angeles Workshop for the Blind, 239 West Adams Boulevard.

Friday, November 7, will be known as Public School Day and special programs on educational, vocational and rehabilitation problems of the blind are scheduled.

Speakers for the evening discussion November 7 will include Perry Sundquist, chief, Division for the Blind, State Department of Social Welfare, W. E. Smith, district supervisor, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dr. Frederick Woellner, University of California at Los Angeles, Miss Frances Blend, principal, Blind and Sight-Saving School, Los Angeles, Dr. Howard Campion, assistant superintendent, Los Angeles Public Schools, and Lawrence C. Schreiber, Los Angeles Department of Public Assistance.

During the week special displays will be exhibited and the public is cordially invited to visit the Workshop.



### *Make Sure*

All who wish to aid in a constructive program to assist the blind of this State and Nation are urged to make sure that their contributions actually go where they are intended.

An impressive appeal is not always a guarantee that funds contributed to help the blind will be expended wisely. There is always the possibility, too, that the organization soliciting funds may be duplicating service to the blind already sponsored by some older institution.

Friends of the Braille Institute are sometimes confused to the extent that they send their contributions to other organizations purportedly engaged in some phase of welfare work for the blind.

It seems timely, therefore, to re-emphasize the fact that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., is not affiliated with any other agency engaged in welfare work for the blind. It has no branch offices. For nearly fifteen years its only address has been 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. For twenty-two years it has rendered service to the blind of this State and Nation, which no other agency is equipped to render.

It is the only institution of its kind west of the Mississippi River adequately equipped and efficiently organized to cope intelligently with the problems confronting the adult blind.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to visit the Braille Institute to obtain firsthand information in support of these statements. Such investigation



will show that nearly 100 cents of every dollar contributed by the public goes into *direct* welfare service of some kind. This is because the major portion of the Institute's overhead and administrative expense is underwritten by regular monthly contributions given for that purpose.



## Rehabilitation

Among those learning to read Braille through the facilities of the Institute is a blind inmate at San Quentin. This man has finished the Braille Institute's Grade One Primer and is now engaged in the mastery of the second book in the series, taking up Grade One and a Half.

With the mastery of Braille, many books on the shelves of the California State Library and the Braille Institute Library will be available to this pupil. The first step in his rehabilitation has been taken.

Speaking of the efforts of the three blind inmates at San Quentin, who are learning to type, Joe Smith, editor of the prison paper, says they "can well be an inspiration to the rest of us whose misfortunes do not include blindness."



## Defense Workers

**I**N 53 workshops throughout the country, a unique kind of defense production project is speeding along with perfect timing and with no delay occasioned by labor troubles. For the folks working on this project are all blind, and they are deeply grateful that they are making a living by their own hands and helping Uncle Sam at the same time.

Pillow cases, brooms, mops, mop handles, and door mats are being

made by sightless persons for the Army on a tremendous scale. These articles, purchased by the Quartermaster Corps for shipment to the various distributing depots, are of Army specifications quality and are being manufactured at surprising speed.

Thus far this year approximately one million and a half pillow cases for the new citizen soldiers have been purchased from workshops for the blind, and tentative plans call for the ordering of two million more before the year is over. In addition 752,484 brooms, 761,612 cotton mops, 71,966 mop handles and 11,604 door mats have been bought by the Quartermaster Corps from institutions for the sightless.

As a striking example of how fast these articles can be made, consider the case of the Mecklinburg Association for the Blind at Charlotte, N. C. This institution was recently awarded a War Department contract to produce 67,000 pillow cases at a cost of something over \$15,000. Today 13 persons at Charlotte, only four of whom can see, are turning out 1,800 pillow cases a day. This includes every process from cutting the material to addressing the completely-packed shipping cases.

The material, made at nearby Kanapolis, comes in long 500-yard rolls. One man pulls the material from the roll, stretches it to the desired length, and then tears it. Oddly enough, the Quartermaster Corps requires that the lengths be torn, not cut in order to achieve an even size pillow case. By a tricky arrangement, this worker bumps into a lever each time he stretches out a length of material, thereby turning a rotary counter which



keeps an accurate numerical check on the number of pieces he has worked.

Transported to the sewing room, the folded lengths are first sewed down the side on high speed machines, then passed on to the "hemmers", who must be able to see. Then back to the over-looking machine and the pillow case is ready for inspection by another seeing worker.

From then on, the articles are handled entirely by blind workers—the corners turned in, the pillow cases folded, bundled, wrapped, placed in cardboard cases, and finally sealed and addressed for shipment.

To an outsider, the ability of the workers, all of whom are blind except the hemmers and the inspector, to move about the room, to run the high speed machines at such a whirring rate, to do all the multitudinous tasks along the assembly line, is nothing short of astounding.

The workers at Charlotte are given six months of training by the State Commission for the Blind, after which they must be able to make their own living. On this job they average from \$10 to \$12 a week and they're happy to be making their own way instead of depending on someone else, glad to be at work on a job for the Government, which has given them the opportunity to be of service to themselves, to the soldiers in camps, and to their country.

Although the rigid Army specifications require the completed pillow cases to be perfect in every respect, the Association has yet to be turned down on a single one.

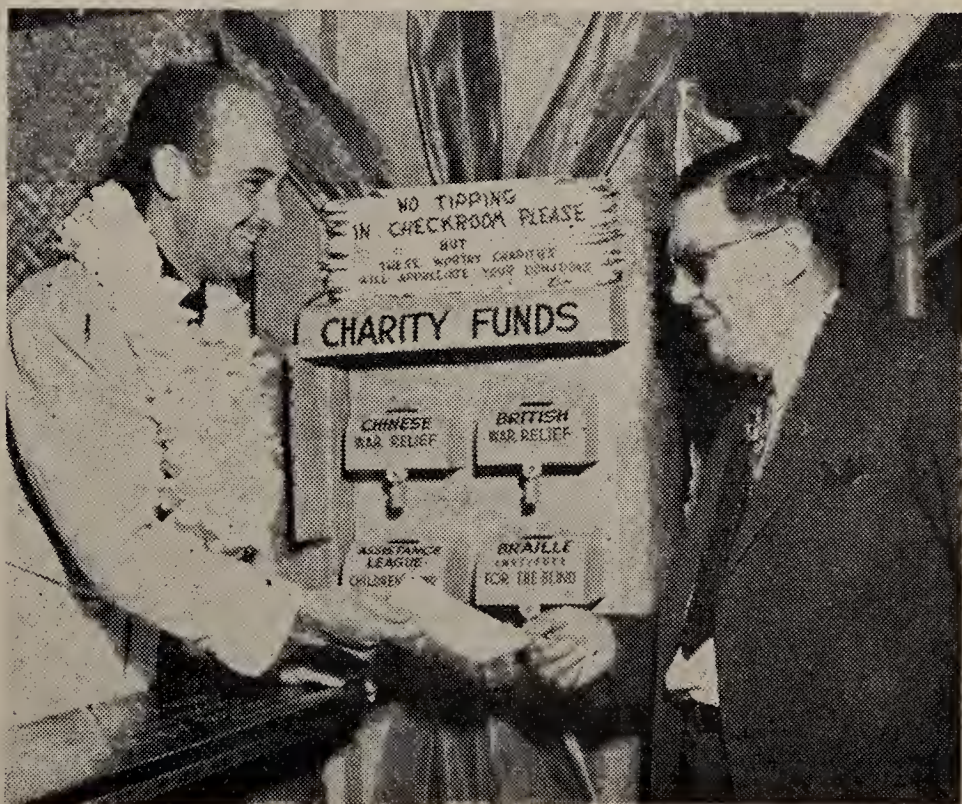
## *The Tale of a Pig*

When an editorial on "collective giving" in the October 1939 issue of *Light* was brought to the attention of Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, she decided something should be done about it. Always interested in the underprivileged and handicapped, Mrs. Hughes did something. Immediately.

At Christmas she sent out more than 250 Mexican pottery pig banks, urging her friends to save a penny a day for a year and send the proceeds to the Braille Institute for the blind.

As this "pig plan" for helping the Institute to finance its welfare activities for the blind became known, others asked to join and on September 30, 1941, \$2,383.26 had been received from this source and other projects sponsored by Mrs. Hughes. Average monthly returns from pig banks were \$145.46.

There is always a pig bank at the Braille Institute for any one who wishes to subscribe to the slogan, "a penny a day drives darkness away," and help to insure its permanency.



Don, the Beachcomber, hands another check to J. Robert Atkinson, of the Braille Institute, from charity box filled by patrons. This is another project sponsored by Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes.



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## ..J] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD ]c..

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*Wisconsin Workshop for the Blind, Milwaukee.* A profit sharing arrangement to boost wages of the 130 blind persons employed at the Workshop has been worked out by Frank C. Klode, State Director of Public Welfare, effective July 1, 1941. Under the new plan, the Wisconsin Blind Products Co., a private firm which for ten years has been selling most of the products of the workshop, has been dissolved. The Industrial Aid for the Blind, a non-stock, non-profit corporation, has been formed. Incorporators are Paul Fryda, president of the Wisconsin Blind Products Co.; Sam Winker, secretary, and S. S. Sanger, a director and counsel. The new corporation will turn over all profits to the Workshop after payment of salaries and operating expenses, according to Klode. Last year, according to Sanger, the net profits of the Wisconsin Blind Products Co. amounted to \$660 on gross sales of \$100,000. Considerably larger profits were anticipated for the future because the new firm, being a non-profit corporation, would not have to pay State and Federal income taxes.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts.* Many friends of Dr. Edward E. Allen, Director Emeritus of Perkins, sent greetings to him on his eightieth birthday, August 1. Dr. and Mrs. Allen had celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary July 9. . . . The American Association of Instructors of the Blind will hold its biennial convention at Perkins June 21-26, 1942.

*Service for the Blind, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.* Workers and former workers in this department gathered July 1 to honor Miss Susie I. Duffy, who was retiring after more than twenty-two years of loyal service as a Braille proofreader for the Red Cross. After the dinner, "school" was called to order. In the final examinations Miss Duffy was given a diploma, and Miss Alice Rohrback presented the graduation gift of twenty-five silver dollars. Miss Adelia M. Hoyt told how Miss Duffy had begun her career with the Red Cross, and the program closed with a spelling bee and songfest.

\* \* \*

*Arizona Committee for Aid to the Blind.* An exhibit and program, sponsored by this committee, of which Mrs. John Langdon, of Clemenceau, is chairman, was held at the Cottonwood Community Clubhouse, April 18. Among articles of interest displayed were current periodicals and books in Braille and Moon type, a Braille writer, and a talking book machine. Many recreational devices used by blind children and adults were also shown, including interlocking dominoes, playing cards in Braille, and checkerboard and checkers that could be used with facility by the sightless. A handcraft display furnished by the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind at Tucson included woven mats, baskets, belts, rugs, brooms, and lovely embroidered and hand-hemmed towels, all made by blind children who are being taught to "see" with their fingers. The program included numbers by Mary Flinn, sight-



less vocalist, of Prescott, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. V. M. Carroll of Cottonwood. Henry Rush, blind attorney of Prescott, gave a fine talk on opportunities that a blind person may have through cooperation of the public. J. Amherst Stone of Prescott, accompanied by his guide-dog, talked on the training of both master and dog. At the conclusion of the program refreshments were served.

\* \* \*

*University of Washington, Seattle.* Ever since May 17, 1917, the campus chimes have been played three times a day by George Bailey, blind chimes player. Bailey never has missed a day. In gratitude for this and because he is an institution on the campus, the entire student body got together and gave him a wedding present when he was married last June to Miss Coralee Fournier. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey were guests at the Braille Institute September 9.

\* \* \*

*Nursery School for Visually Handicapped Children, Los Angeles, California.* A note from Mrs. Lambert W. Jordan, corresponding secretary of the school, a project of the Delta Gamma Alumna, reports in part: "As our work grows and the school enlarges, we begin to feel gratified that with the generous help of so many friends, we are accomplishing something of lasting value to the children in our home for the visually handicapped."

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*Women's Traffic Club, Tulsa, Oklahoma.* The official publication of this club, "The Mau-Wi" (which in the Indian language means "Send the news"), reports progress of their welfare work in aiding the blind. The first major

project was to send Lois Ashworth, 28 years old, to a Kansas City surgeon for an eye operation. The friendly interest of these business women resulted in greatly improved sight for their protege. Commenting on this, "The Traffic Dame" published by the Women's Traffic Club of Philadelphia, said: "It seems as if these traffic women have found the only recipe for real happiness . . . do something sincerely, whole-heartedly, to bring happiness to others."

\* \* \*

*Blind Service Association, Chicago, Illinois.* A diversified exhibit of articles made by sightless craftsmen under the guidance of this Association was held in April in the club women's bureau at Mandel Brothers. The display included crocheted wash cloths, potholders and bath mats, woven baskets, hand-tooled leather belts and bags, brooms, flower pots and dish towels. All the articles were on sale and proceeds went directly to the blind workers.

\* \* \*

*National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, New York, N. Y.* Calling attention to the fact that blasting caps and detonating fuses are dangerous playthings for children and may cause blindness or serious eye injuries, a warning to parents concerning this hazard has been issued by this Society. The Institute of Makers of Explosives reported last year more than 150 juvenile casualties of this kind, including 24 eye injuries. The Society is cooperating with the explosive makers in an educational campaign to reduce the number of these accidents, a majority of which happen in rural communities or near small towns. About 90 per cent of the victims are boys.



YOUR OPPORTUNITY...

- To assist the blind in their struggle for self-support. Often a loan of \$25 or \$50 is sufficient to give a blind person a new lease on life.
- To give assistance to the needy blind who are not eligible for governmental aid under Federal and State laws. Approximately 60 per cent of the nation's 130,000 blind lost their sight after 50 years of age—beyond the age of rehabilitation for self-support.
- To help maintain the Braille Institute Library. This free lending library serves the blind of California and Arizona—a territory assigned to it by the Library of Congress as one of the regional libraries to distribute literature furnished by the United States government. Such literature circulates through the mail free of postage, however the maintenance cost of the library, approximating \$5,000 a year, is borne entirely by the Braille Institute out of general funds or from contributions designated for that purpose.
- To furnish free radio service.
- To assist with the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, free to the blind or at prices they may be able to pay below the non-profit production cost.
- To provide a permanent fund to sustain the manufacturing cost of Braille writers in lots of 100 or more. These writers will be marketed to the blind at cost, no charge to be included therein for development of dies and jigs. To meet the demand already received from the blind all over the nation, funds should be available at once to make their production immediately possible.
- To furnish free or subsidized subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine issued to the blind at a special rate of \$3 a year, the cost being about \$6.

Contributions are always needed to maintain these activities. Kindly return the attached coupon with your contribution and you will receive immediately a receipt therefor and be listed among the good friends who have made possible our twenty-one years of welfare service to the blind.

Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to take this opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$..... to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....  
Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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Vol. XIV, No. 2

January, 1942



## ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PURSUANT to call, the members of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., met in annual session November 10, 1941, in the office of the corporation, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, for the purpose of reviewing the activities for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1941, and to elect a Board of Trustees for the ensuing year.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Robert A. Odell, there being 114 members present in person and by proxy.

The election of a Board of Trustees resulted as follows: Messrs. J. Robert Atkinson, Herman O. Meyer, Robert A. Odell, Arthur L. Sonderegger, J. W. Tapley, C. L. Whitehead, Arthur C. Pesterre and Lowell C. Frost, M. D. All these were incumbents except Dr. Frost.

Much to the regret of all members, and to his own regret, Dr. W. A. Pettit, consulting ophthalmologist for the State of California, whose name had been

placed in nomination by the nominating committee, found it necessary to withdraw his name "due to previous professional commitments." In a letter withdrawing his name, Dr. Pettit expressed his appreciation for the honor extended and gave his assurance of his interest in the work being performed by the Braille Institute and his desire to serve "at any time and in any unofficial capacity" desirable.

A report of the Board of Trustees was read, accepted and ordered published for distribution to the members as follows:

### HISTORY

On September 30, 1941, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., passed its twenty-second milepost in social and economic welfare service to the blind of the nation. Its founding in September, 1919 was made possible by a gift of \$25,000, spread over a period of five years, from Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts.



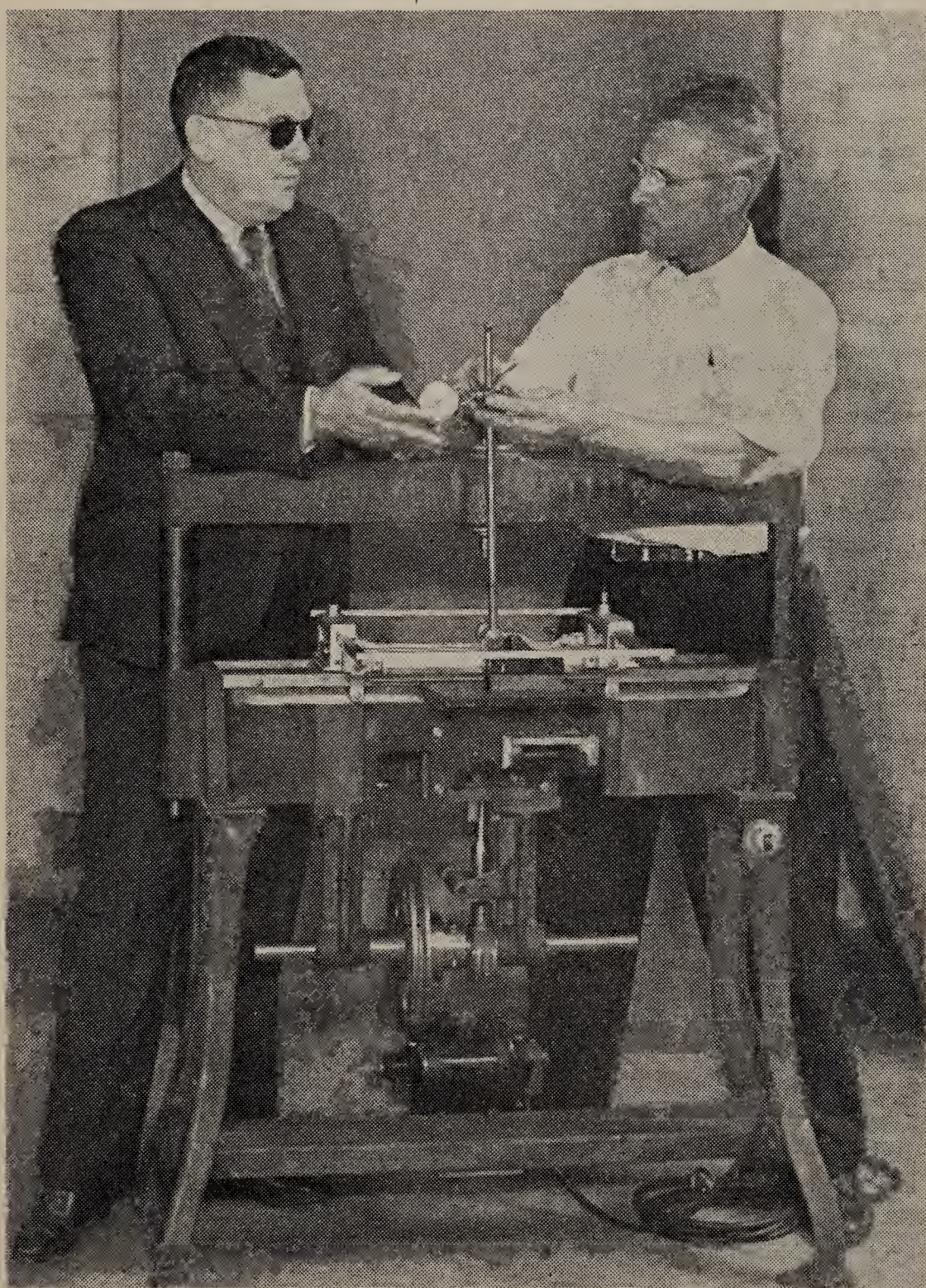
In the beginning, the new institution was to confine its activities chiefly to the literary advancement of the blind by publishing good literature of all kinds free, or on a non-profit basis. The temporary name then given to the unincorporated institution was Universal Braille Press, and for ten years the literary service it sponsored and the general welfare service it gradually assumed were conducted under that name.

From the outset, the motto of the new printing institution was, "Lift up

a standard for the people of Braille-land that they may read and not be weary." Later this was made the motto for *The Braille Mirror*, a secular monthly magazine launched in July, 1926.

As early as 1924 much good literature had been published in a style and workmanship pronounced superior by many blind readers as well as librarians for the blind. Of those pronouncements, perhaps Miss Annie E. Carson, of the Cleveland Public Library, paid the highest compliment in these words, "You have taken blindness out of books for the blind."

Recently, in a letter to the managing director, Miss Carson wrote in part: "The Lord has surely used and blessed and developed you in this pioneering! If you had done nothing more than give the finely embossed and bound Braille books, it would have been enough, but that just seems to have been a point of departure . . . When you send out your requests for gifts, send one to me. I may not be able to respond at once, but in the course of time, you will hear from me. I thoroughly enjoy your expression of 'passing the hat.' With your business management, you will have endowment if you are given time. Although no longer actively in the work, my interest in my friends and their accomplish-



*Marshall Perham Photo*

W. E. Goetz (right), mechanical engineer and production superintendent, explaining to J. Robert Atkinson ingenious device to provide variable spacing between letters in Moon type on new stereotyping machine.



ments continues as of yore and ever will."

Among the first works to be published was the King James Version of the Bible with many innovations as to arrangement of text, practical and consistent for both ready reference and general use. Incidentally, this was the first complete edition of the King James Bible in the revised Braille system, Grade One and a Half.

#### EXPANSION AND INCORPORATION

Steady progress from year to year in the first decade of the institution as an unincorporated, philanthropic agency was realized through the generosity of many friends who wished to assist with the literary welfare of the blind. Gradually it became evident that to meet the demands from the local blind and the blind of the nation, for welfare service of various kinds outside the literary field, an institution founded on a broader basis should be established. Therefore, on September 30, 1929 a charter was granted by the State of California to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., to be devoted generally to the social and economic welfare of the blind as a nation-wide, non-profit, non-sectarian institution, and to carry on the activities of the unincorporated agency.

#### HEADQUARTERS—NO BRANCHES

For fourteen years the Braille Institute's headquarters have been located at its present address on North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. The Braille Institute has no other address, maintains no branch offices, and it is not affiliated officially with any other agency engaged in welfare work for the blind, other than to cooperate constructively to avoid duplication of blind welfare service at the expense of the public.

#### MAJOR ACTIVITIES

For the past twelve years, the Braille Institute has not only maintained its original objectives during one of the worst financial depressions the world has ever known, but gradually it has enlarged and expanded its service to meet urgent requests from the nation's blind until its activities now include:

1. A bureau of social welfare which deals with problems peculiar to blindness.

2. A home teaching department for free instruction in raised print.

3. A free lending library for the blind of California and Arizona.

4. A bureau of business guidance to study and enlarge the economic opportunities of the employable blind.

5. Sponsorship of books and magazines printed in Braille and Moon types on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay, including the distribution of the Bible in Braille.

6. Development of appliances for the blind; consultation to blind individuals and organizations.

7. Operation of a printing department — on a non-commercial basis — for the publication of literature in Braille and Moon types.

#### TRUSTEE MEETINGS AND NEW MEMBERS

The trustees held nine meetings during the year at which 43 new members were elected.

#### CONVENTION AND GOOD WILL

By unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees, the managing director attended the nineteenth biennial convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind held in Indianapolis, July 7-11. As a member of the Association's Board of Directors, Mr. Atkinson responded to the address of welcome by Mr. James E. Deery, speaking for the Mayor of Indianapolis. At



the closing session of the convention he was elected first vice-president, with a reminder from his colleagues that this probably meant the presidency of the Association in 1943, if he elected to accept that high office.

Mr. Atkinson is also a member of a committee appointed by the Association's past president to work out ways and means and make recommendations to the Federal government for the rehabilitation of persons blinded in production for national defense, in training camps, or in the armed forces of the nation; and before returning home, he attended a meeting of that committee held in New York City at which a well-rounded out program was outlined.

While in the East, the managing director held several interviews with heads of agencies whose Braille literature is printed by the Institute's printing department. Included among these was an interview with Rev. O. C. Schroeder, editor of the Lutheran peri-

odicals for the blind; Mr. Archibald MacLeish who, as Librarian of Congress, is administrator of a Federal appropriation to advance the literary welfare of the adult blind; his administrative assistant, Mr. Verner W. Clapp, and Mr. Robert A. Voorus, Director of the Project, Books for the Adult Blind, under Mr. MacLeish.

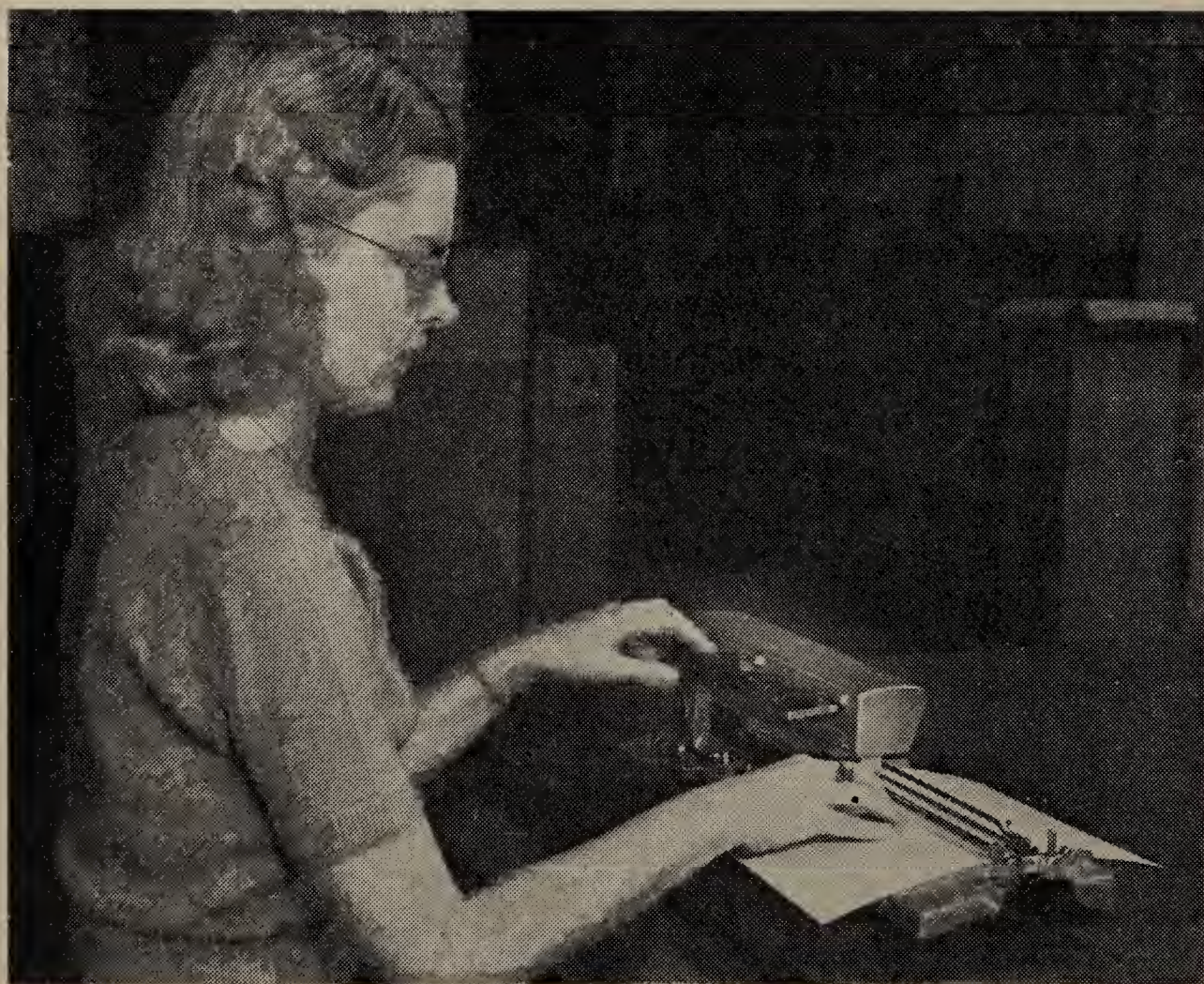
In Boston, business interviews were held with officials charged with the responsibility of publishing Christian Science literature in Braille for the use of the blind.

The advantages gained from these personal interviews cannot be fully estimated. But the trustees, administrative staff and employees of the Institute's printing department feel very grateful for the opportunity to assist these agencies with the publication of their literature in Braille, the revenue from which aids substantially in maintaining the operating expense of the printing department of the Braille Institute.

#### PORTABLE BRAILLE WRITER

As announced in the annual report a year ago, all dies and tools and patterns for our portable Braille writer are completed, and parts for 100 writers are ready for assembly excepting those parts which are stamped from aluminum.

Some months ago, an appli-



Marshall Perham Photo

Beverly Bilbro tries out the new Braille Institute Portable Writer.



cation for a priority rating on enough aluminum to complete these 100 writers was made to the Office of Production Management. On October 10, a priority rating, B-1, was received. Although this is rather a high rating in the classification of civilian production, the indications are that it will be some time before this order is delivered. Therefore, it may be several months yet before the first allotment of Braille writers is ready for the market.

Despite the crowded condition in our building, it was found possible to provide space necessary for assembling the Braille writer when that time arrives. It is planned to employ blind persons of mechanical skill to assemble the machines.

In view of the long, unavoidable delay in the development of this writer, it seems proper to indulge in a little repetition, in order to keep the project and the urgent need for the Braille writer clearly in mind.

The development of this Braille writer really began in 1933. Not until 1937, however, was an acceptable working model completed. That year, it was exhibited and demonstrated at the 17th biennial convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind held in Toronto, Canada; and again at the Association's convention held in Los Angeles in 1939.

Many of the delegates, both blind and sighted, who examined the writer critically, expressed the opinion that the design would meet consistently and practicably a long-felt need. Some delegates, especially those voluntarily transcribing Braille literature under the direction of the American Red Cross, regretted that the writer, being portable in size, was not large enough to receive the size of paper used by them. Otherwise, they seemed confident that the writer met all of their requirements and urged that a standard model, adequate for their needs, be brought out in addition to the portable.

In time, a larger, standard model will be manufactured. The dies and tools and patterns, with but a few exceptions for the portable model can be used for the larger model.

Therefore, as soon as the first lot of portable writers is finished and on the market, the larger model will be manufactured.

#### BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

On December 1, 1937 the distribution of the King James Version of the

*(Continued on Page 18)*



*Marshall Perham Photo*

Beatrice Carson, Braille proof reader and Ella Hall, copy holder



# BLIND SUPERVISION OF VENDING STANDS OPERATED BY THE BLIND

By JAMES H. COLLINS

**I**N Arkansas, something seems to be wrong with that old proverb—the blind leading the blind, and so on. For Arkansas has done exceptionally well in setting up these new vending stands in public buildings, under the operation of blind persons, and the state official in charge, Roy Kumpe, who has been blind since he was eight years old.

Losing his sight so early in life, Kumpe had the advantage of being sent to the Arkansas School for the Blind. From there, he went to junior college, worked as an insurance man and sales manager for six years, then studied law, went into practice, and also politics, was nearly elected to the state legislature, was active in rural electrification, and finally was chosen to organize vending stands, as director of the state employment service for the blind.

Most of us remember the fight to get a Federal law authorizing such stands

in Federal buildings, and most of us probably assumed, five years ago, that the job was done when the law was passed.

However, that was only the beginning, and Arkansas didn't really get started on vending stands until two years ago.

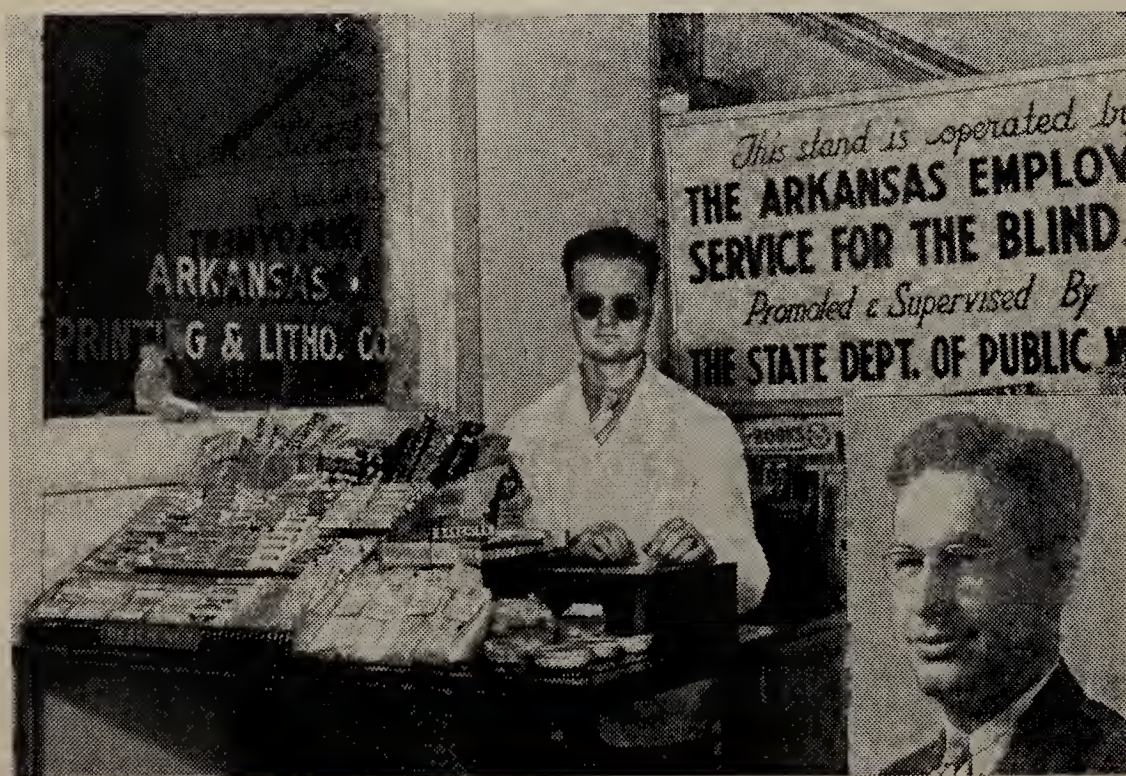
It's quite a job, in Arkansas or anywhere.

First, the blind operator of a stand must have enough latent business ability to run it, and on top of that must be trained, and then supervised.

Permission to open a stand in a public building is nice, if you have the capital to stock a stand—but what sighted person, picked from the crowd anywhere, has one to two thousand dollars to invest in fixtures, candy, periodicals, soft drinks, tobacco?

Money to get started was the first problem, and in Arkansas they solved it in their own way. No public funds were available, so they formed a non-

profit benevolent corporation, and also an advisory committee of prominent citizens known for their activities in Lions clubs and other organizations interested in the welfare of the blind. Roy Kumpe had been active in the State Association for the Blind, and been its president. The purpose of this corporation and committee was, to find money to put blind stand operators in business.



*Fausett's Studio Photo - Little Rock, Ark.*

Gene Taylor, operator of the first vending stand for the blind in Arkansas. Lower right: Roy Kumpe.



By the end of 1941, there were twenty-five stands in Arkansas public buildings, state and county as well as Federal, and the program for the next three or four years contemplates a hundred.

The first nineteen stands that were set up gave occupation to twenty-one blind persons, and developed a gross business of about \$50,000 annually. Which sounds like a lot of money, until you break it down.

Sales of the average stand run around fifty dollars a week. After goods have been paid for, and three dollars to the non-profit financing corporation that puts the operator in business, there is an average of nine dollars for the operator.

Which doesn't sound like very much money, but is better than it sounds, when some comparisons are made.

Average per capita income in Arkansas is only \$234, and the blind stand operator earns \$494. As he or she may have been removed from the state's list of blind dependents, who get only nine dollars a month, it is an all-around improvement, more income to live on, interesting work in a business of one's own, and a definite place in life. The blind stand operators support among them twenty-five dependents.

The stands are mostly located in courthouses, in towns around 5,000 population. About fifty people employed in such a building, with from 150 to 250 going in and out daily, give the minimum basis for a paying stand.

The first stand was opened with a small loan to the non-profit corporation from the state association for the blind. The corporation retains six per cent of the gross sales for the repayment of the loan, and as fast as other locations and operators are found, the

corporation gets financial aid from some civic organization or private individual to purchase fixtures and stock.

The blind operator is also trained in business methods before he or she opens the stand, and afterwards is visited once a month by a supervisor, who takes inventory, and makes suggestions about the appearance of the stand, display of merchandise, selling methods, management of stock, and so on. The supervisor also checks with the manager of the building, to see that the stand is operated in a manner satisfactory to tenants.

There have been few failures through lack of ability of operators, because a man or woman who is not doing well may be developed into a good sales person and business manager by further training. If it is necessary to supplant the operator, another trained operator is in waiting. Stands have been closed in buildings where there was not enough traffic to support them.

Under the Federal law, the stand program is operated through an agency management system, recommended by the Service for the Blind, United States Office of Education, and much of the success of the Arkansas program is due to the counsel, service and inspiration of Joseph F. Clunk, supervisor of that service, in Washington.

Roy Kumpe is now thirty-one years old, married, and has a son rapidly approaching his first birthday. His sight was lost when, in the third grade of rural public schools, he contracted trachoma. He was chosen as director of the Arkansas Employment Service for the Blind, State Department of Public Welfare, because of his activity in work for fellow-blind, as well as his diversified experience in business and public work.



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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In Stevens Point, Wisconsin, James M. Dufva conducts the town's smallest business. It is a rug-weaving enterprise, housed in a small trailer near his home. Dufva, who was a farmer before losing his sight five years ago, was married last spring to a blind woman who had been without sight for 13 years. Mrs. Dufva is a graduate of the Wisconsin School for the Blind. They met through a mutual friend and corresponded for a year before marrying. Dufva tends his loom as skillfully as a sighted person. He keeps it tightened and in good repair and he says he could take it apart and put it together again. Last fall he cut down the brush in the back yard and piled it up to be burned.



Jimmie Burns, now studying for his doctor's degree at the University of California at Los Angeles, hopes to fit himself to teach psychology. He is now teaching three practice classes a week at City College under the direction of Professor Benjamin K. Swartz. As a youngster, Jimmie used to "star" on programs staged at the Braille Institute when the public was invited to attend. His particular part would be to read bits of humor from *The Braille Mirror*, and his poise and talent for this role always made a hit with his listeners. He plays the piano, he says, "just for my own amusement."



Preacher, sportsman, author and scientist, Dr. Walter D. Kallenbach has just finished a year's journey of 50,000

miles, traveling alone by train, plane and bus, speaking to more than 500,000 persons and making 209 radio addresses. Within the last four years he has written eight books, three of them religious best sellers, the most popular one being "That Men May Live." He plays golf, pitches horseshoes and plays many other games. Next August he is scheduled to play a golf match with Bob Ripley for the benefit of the blind. Although he never played the game before he was blind he will give Ripley the handicap. He has developed 136 kinds of roses and many varieties of tulips.



"Who would serve better than I if Orlando was forced to a blackout?" Charles G. Williams, Florida blind man, gave home defense officials something to think about when he posed this question. So convincing was Mr. Williams in his arguments as to his ability to carry messages in complete darkness that he was enrolled "for the duration."



Throughout 15 years of schooling, Byron Webb of Chicago has maintained a scholastic record generously sprinkled with A's and B's. Byron, 23, has been blind almost since birth and is a senior at De Paul University. He is taking advanced physics, differential equations, German, two philosophy courses and optics. He earns spending money by repairing radio sets and makes his way through the busiest loop streets without a misstep. For the



last two years he has been taking vocal lessons and his mellow tenor voice has delighted countless audiences.



During the recent holidays, a group of handicapped women gave a party for Miss Anna Johnson, of Milwaukee, as a token of appreciation for the help she had given others. Known as "Wisconsin's Helen Keller," Miss Johnson is blind, deaf and crippled. She doesn't believe in worrying about herself, however, and devotes her time in the interest of others. The 40 women who attended the party, many of whom Miss Johnson had helped, were in high spirits and enjoyed the gaiety of the occasion. Later there were some tears as Miss Johnson's trembling fingers folded 12 dollar bills and said, "I shall use every cent of this for my shut-ins and the missions." From the back of the room someone murmured: "She will, too." Miss Johnson's philosophy is epitomized in these words: "I must think and think and think, and keep on studying and studying to keep up with the times, so that I can better help those who are in need. I must always think of others so that I do not become unhappy."



Blind and partially crippled while serving his country in World War I, Harry P. Trusty, Hollywood, California, has been inventing and perfecting safety devices for many years. He has devised a means whereby a person may drop safely with a parachute from an airplane flying at only 85 feet. And his theory in this respect has been proven. It is simply a new way to fold

and pack an ordinary chute. Before total blindness overtook him four years ago, Trusty was a designing engineer. Possessing an accentuated sense of smell, he has offered his services to the Army to detect poisonous gases.



A blind veteran of the War Between the States, Capt. Henry M. Mingay, 95, has made it possible for a group of veterans of World War I to have "eyes" that serve the community. When Capt. Mingay heard that the members of the aircraft observation unit in Tujunga, California, needed good binoculars to carry on their work of looking for enemy airplanes, he purchased the best pair he could find and presented them to Fred Lau, a former commander of the Tujunga Post, American Legion, and in charge of the observation unit.



Robert Brereton, brilliant 19-year-old sightless pianist, of Berkeley, California, has given a series of concerts in Arizona, under the sponsorship of the Arizona Association for the Blind. After making his debut recital in San Francisco, young Brereton was chosen to appear as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under Rudolph Ganz at one of the concerts for young people. He has been heard with the Standard Symphony Orchestra of San Francisco with Pierre Monteux conducting, and was soloist in the performance of the First Movement of Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3, in C Minor." During the summer of 1941, he studied with Artur Schnabel, noted concert pianist.





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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XIV      January, 1942      Number 2

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## *Board and Room*

Light readers who have home facilities for giving board and room to blind adults at nominal rates are not only requested but urged to list their names and addresses at the Braille Institute bureau of social welfare. Telephone OLympia 1121.



## *Free Tickets*

Concerts and movies were enjoyed by the blind of Southern California during the past year due to the generous attitude of Behymer Artists Bureau, RKO-Hillstreet Theatre, Southern California Symphony Association, Hollywood Bowl, and Rose Lampert Graff Foundation.



## *Bicycle Built for Two*

A blind man and his sighted wife are now enjoying many pleasant outings on a tandem bicycle donated by Mrs. Robert Cummings of Van Nuys. Early in September, Mrs. Cummings called at the Braille Institute indicating that she would like to give her tandem bike to a blind person who could use it to advantage.

After a thorough investigation, the case of a young blind man, who has just completed a course in chiropractic, was brought to the attention

of the Institute. This chap, an Eagle Scout and licensed amateur radio operator, had formerly had a tandem bicycle. He and his wife had many trips on it, on one occasion cycling to San Diego and back. When it broke down, they missed the opportunities afforded for recreation and exercise.

When Mrs. Cummings' offer was made to them, they were, of course, delighted. The Braille Institute truck picked up the bike in Van Nuys and it was delivered to the couple in southwest Los Angeles late one Friday night—just in time for an enjoyable weekend outing.



## *Blackout*

"To the citizens of Braille-land, blackouts are quite a normal experience. Long ago they have learned not to be afraid . . . they have learned to 'see' in blackouts . . . work in blackouts—sometimes as efficiently and deftly as those with sight. The blind have already demonstrated their ability to adjust themselves to abnormal conditions. They must of necessity accomplish those things which sighted persons do, but by some other way than physical sight. The method of application may differ, but the objectives are the same." (Quoted from an editorial in The Braille Mirror for December, 1941. Reprinted in full in the Los Angeles Times, Dec. 21, 1941).



## *Photos by Perham*

The pictures illustrating the annual report, by Marshall Perham, were generously donated by Mr. Perham as a contribution to the blind. A graduate of the University of Southern California, Mr. Perham has enlisted in the Army and applied for service with the Signal Corps.



## OUR OWN WHO'S WHO

"The best chess-player I ever met was in the leprosarium at Molakai, where I was doing some research work. He was a leper and he was totally blind. He beat me every time I played him." Dr. Frost was recounting how he first came to be interested in the blind. "That was a long time ago," he said, "but we are still learning that blindness may open doors as well as close them."

Dr. Lowell C. Frost, our newly-elected trustee, has lived and traveled in Europe, Japan and China. In the latter country he was studying Oriental medicine in the hospitals of Chang-sha, the scene of a great Chinese victory early this month. This and other medical experience won him a Major's commission in the first World War.

Upon his return to civil life he entered the teaching profession, and has been head of the science department of the Beverly Hills High School for a number of years. Educational problem naturally led to an interest in parent-child relationships, which were evidenced in his series of radio talks on "Boys' Problems" and in his recently published book, "Meet Your Child."

Although Dr. Frost has lived almost all his life in and around Los Angeles, he received his secondary education at the Hill School in Pennsylvania, and was graduated from Yale University. His

medical degree was granted by the University of California.

"It is quite popular at this time," said Dr. Frost, "to state that all our efforts must be to supply men and equipment for the winning of this war. Of course, I agree that we must and shall win this war. But no great war in the world's history has ever been won by the combatant services and supplies alone. Internal morale also must be built up and maintained, and

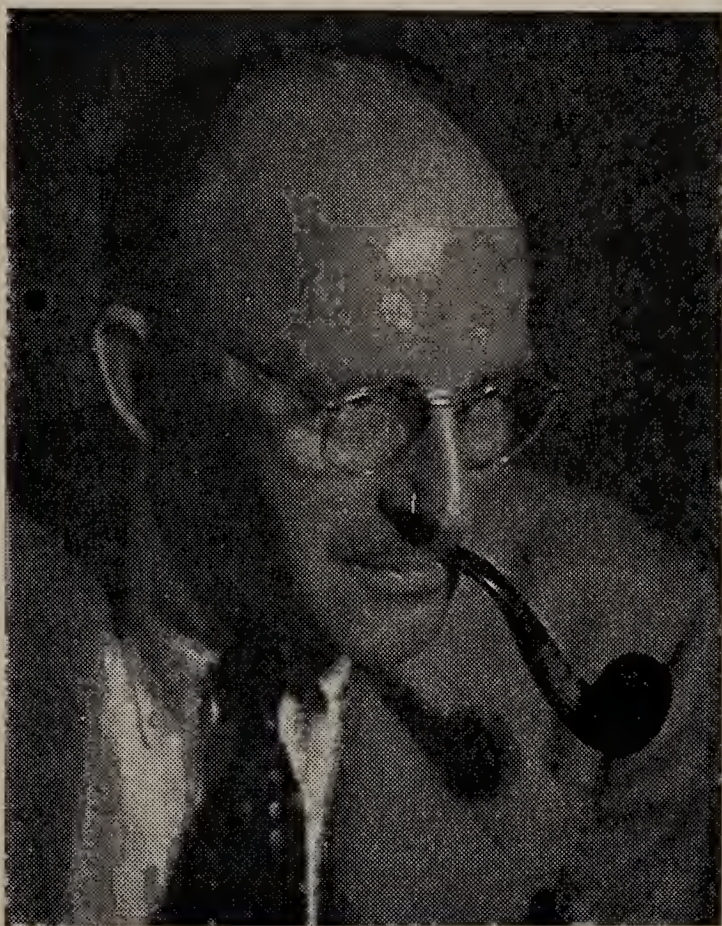
it is in this field that the Braille Institute of America, Inc. can and will play its own part. The care of the blind is not a luxury to be cut down and rationed; the blind are American citizens whose well-being must be maintained, and who can and will contribute their share in upholding the staunch morale of the nation."

The trustees of the Braille Institute are very gratified, as

may its members well be, to have engaged the active interest and association of Dr. Frost.

In this, Our Own Who's Who, it might be said, therefore that *Lowell C. Frost* is the "freshman" member of the Board of Trustees.

*Arthur C. Pesterre*, whose biographical sketch was printed in *Light* for January, 1941, might be called the "sophomore." Mr. Pesterre was elected to the board at the annual meeting in November, 1940. He was born in Ox-



Lowell C. Frost, M. D.



ford, England, saw service in the first World War and all the excitement of the Sinn Fein rebellion in Dublin. After the armistice of 1918, he tried ranching in British Columbia, but later moved his family to California where he has been ever since. He lives in Beverly Hills where he is in business. As a hobby, he breeds German shepherd "police" dogs. As a commodore of the Lake Arrowhead Yacht Club, he saw it grow from two sailing boats to over fifty.

*John W. Tapley* became a member of the Board of Trustees in September, 1938, when he was elected to fill a vacancy. However, Mr. Tapley had previously served for a number of years on the Board of Directors of the Braille Bible Society. Born at Lord's Cove, Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy, he was educated in the public schools of Calais, Maine. He answered the call of the Golden State and has lived in California since 1904. He is a member of the Businessmen's Glee Club, past president of the Alturian Club, Past Noble Grand, Odd Fellows, Past Master Larchmont Lodge, F. & A. M., and a member of the Wilshire Rotary Club.

*Herman O. Meyer* was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Braille Bible Society, serving several terms as president. At the annual membership meeting March 1, 1938 Mr. Meyer was elected to the Braille Institute Board of Trustees. He was born in Quincy, Illinois and moved with his parents when a small child to Colorado, thence westward to California, where he was educated in the public schools. In California he has been identified with oil and real estate development; and in the Republic of Panama he was associated with a tim-

ber development project. At the outbreak of the World War he went to New York City but returned to Los Angeles at the close of hostilities in 1918.

*Cecil L. Whitehead* was elected a member of the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting March 3, 1936. He is a lawyer and for a number of years was counsel for the Veterans' Administration when he had under his supervision over one thousand disabled veterans of World War I. On graduation from Louisiana State University in 1914, Mr. Whitehead received the degree of B.A. and LL.D. That same year he was admitted to the bar. He served with the 87th Division in France and has made his home in California since 1922. He lives in Altadena, is past Commander of American Legion Post No. 470 and Past Master of Masonic Lodge No. 678.

*Arthur L. Sonderegger* was born in Switzerland and is an engineering graduate of the Swiss Polytechnic University at Zurich. He has been a consulting engineer in Los Angeles since 1904. Thirty-seven years in Los Angeles ranks him with the pioneers! He has been connected with outstanding water and irrigation works of the Southwest—in Imperial Valley, Coachella Valley, Pine Canyon, Pasadena, Colorado River, Metropolitan Aqueduct, San Diego and many others. His interest in work for the blind dates back to 1920. He is a charter member of the Braille Institute and has been its treasurer since inception. He is past president of the Los Angeles section, American Society of Civil Engineers.

*Robert A. Odell* was born in Port Huron, Illinois and graduated from the public schools in Rock Island County. In 1903 he came to California and received his LL.D. degree from the Uni-



versity of Southern California in 1905. He was admitted to the bar that same year, and has practiced law here since that time. Mr. Odell has always had a deep interest in social and educational problems. For six years he was a member of the Los Angeles Board of Education and was its president for four years. He has been active in the Southern section of Grand Lodge Committee of Public School Week. Mr. Odell is a 32nd Degree Mason, K.C.C.H., and a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. A charter member of the Braille Institute, he has been president since March, 1931, when he succeeded the first president, the late Gesner Williams.

J. Robert Atkinson, founder, vice-president and managing director of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was born in Grundy County, Missouri. As

a youth, lured by the call of the West, he rode the range of Montana as a cowboy, working with the Triangle F and Circle C outfits, among others. He lost his sight in 1912 and since that time his life has been devoted to the rehabilitation of those handicapped by physical blindness. He invented machinery which has raised the standard of Braille printing and designed the first machine for printing books in Moon type on a semi-commercial basis in the United States. At the 19th bien-nial convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, Mr. Atkinson was elected first vice-president of the Association. He is still an enthusiastic horseman, riding his own horse Sandy at every available opportunity. He is a member of the Los Angeles Breakfast Club and affiliated with the Rangers of that organization.



Marshall Perham Photo

While the flag flies at the Braille Institute, workers look after the welfare of those who live in a perpetual blackout. Books in Braille and Moon type are being made for the United States government, to be distributed free to readers throughout the country; and the various activities of the Institute, with the exception of the free lending library, are housed there.



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*Oklahoma Commission for the Blind*, Oklahoma City, Okla. A model vending stand, operated by blind persons, was part of the commission's exhibit at the State Fair and Exposition during the week of September 21, 1941. In addition to the vending stand, the booth contained an educational exhibit. The commission's blind stenographer was in charge of the educational exhibit. Her desk, typewriter, Braille machine and other equipment were part of the exhibit and the routine correspondence of the commission was carried on from the Fair Grounds. There was also a display of leather goods, rugs, brooms and floor mats. A blind pianist and sightless vocalist provided entertainment which was available to a large number through the facilities of a public address system. Oklahoma's program in behalf of the blind was explained by J. Derrell Smith, placement agent. The operation of the vending stand made the venture self-supporting.

\* \* \*

*Industrial Home for the Blind*, Brooklyn, N. Y. The Miller Memorial Building, providing working space for many more blind men, was dedicated October 23, 1941, at 1000 Atlantic Avenue. In 1893, the Industrial Home for the Blind pioneered in the employment of the adult blind. The work has steadily grown since that time. The new building is noteworthy for the unusual arrangement of equipment especially designed for the blind. It is the gift of a generous friend who prefers to remain anonymous.

\* \* \*

*Ming Sum School for the Blind*, Can-

ton, China. When seven girls of the A Class of the Turner School of Nursing of Hackett Medical Center visited Ming Sum School they wanted to know all about Braille. These girls of new China supplemented the desire with action, and the sightless girls of the Junior High School, whose guests they were, gave them their first lesson. They chose the English version for a beginning, and the teachers were delighted with the progress shown by pupils. Now the Hackett girls have alphabets in Braille and two slates and styli. They propose to master the art and transcribe books for Ming Sum.

\* \* \*

*Bureau of Services for the Blind*, New York State Department of Social Welfare, New York, N. Y. Mr. C. L. Broun, supervisor of employment, reports a number of interesting placements. "Shaker in laundry." The laundry comes in a sack from the dry room and is dumped into a bin. There are usually two women working at this bin and the items of laundry, if sheets, are handled by two women, shaken out and laid across a rack ready for the manifold. "Stripping flag." This is in preparation of the material for strip and rush seating. The flag is harvested and brought into the station. The word "stripping" refers to the removal of all leaves, buds, etc., from the stem. "Last puller." This work is done by hand in a number of shoe factories and by machines in others. The hand operator removes the lasts from the shoes, first taking the shoe with the last from the rack, placing it on a peg, breaking the last, taking off the unfinished shoe, re-



placing it on the rack and dropping the lasts on an endless belt so that they are returned to that part of the factory where the lasts are needed. "Tack cleaner" in livery stable. This means the cleaning of harness, saddles, bridles, etc., in a riding academy. It can be done very successfully by a blind person after training, and is a particularly good job into which to rehabilitate a man if he has done the work previously. "Packer." Several girls have been placed as packers in one of the plants of a well known nationally advertised product. This job consists of opening up a flat carton, adjusting an end, taking a tube, wrapping a folder around it, putting it in the carton, fastening the carton and putting it in a larger carton for shipping. The blind girls are reported to be as efficient as the best of the girls in the department. "Wrapping films in a dark room" and "stacking films in a dark room." These are two different operations usually employing two girls in a photographic service plant.

\* \* \*

*New York Association for the Blind, New York City.* A special training course for volunteers who would like to help with the blind as their contribution to the civilian defense program has been announced by Mrs. R. G. Whelden, supervisor of volunteers at the Lighthouse.

. . . One hundred blind men and women, and children from the Nursery School were evacuated from the Lighthouse, a six-story building, in three minutes in the first air raid drill for the blind in New York City. At the sound of the siren, blind staff workers, and blind men and women in training and recreational groups, filed down the steps of

the Lighthouse without any signs of panic. . . . Cooperating with the civil defense program, the Lighthouse is organizing a training program so the blind will be equal to any emergency and fully aware of the dangers of a real air raid.

\* \* \*

*Wisconsin Workshop for the Blind, Milwaukee.* The 130 blind employees of the workshop received a Christmas bonus of \$1100. In addition they shared \$617, representing the "profits" of the Industrial Aid for the Blind, which has been functioning since September 1 as a non-profit selling organization. The annual payroll of the organization totals about \$60,000. Seventy-four employees work at the shop and 56 in their homes throughout the state.

\* \* \*

*National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, New York, N. Y.* Ninety-eight per cent of the eye injuries which occur in American industries at the rate of 1,000 a day and represent an annual loss of \$200,000,000, are wholly unnecessary, according to a study sponsored by the Society and recently issued by the Columbia University Press. "At the end of an eight-hour working day, today and every other work day, a thousand men and women in American factories, mills, mines, utilities, and other places of work will have suffered eye injuries," the study, prepared by the late Louis Resnick, staff member of the Society for 20 years, says. Mr. Resnick's report, completed three days before his death in March, 1941, is based upon two decades of personal observation in workshops throughout the country. It contains a complete summary of eye hazards existing in American industry today.



# ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT OF TRUSTEES

(Continued from Page 7)

Bible in Braille was established as one of the Institute's major activities. This was brought about through a merger of the Braille Bible Society with the Braille Institute.

The results since that time show clearly that this action was a progressive step, both in the interest of economy and of increased service to the blind.

By this action, the Braille Institute acquired all the activities, as well as the assets, of the Braille Bible Society, which had been inaugurated in 1920. Since then, until September 30, 1941, 14,998 volumes of this Bible have been distributed to the English-reading blind of the world.

However, there is still a steady demand for the Bible in Braille. Funds for this purpose are therefore urgently needed. In addition, the embossed plates must now be replaced by new ones, at an estimated cost of \$4,500.

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

During the year the Institute benefitted substantially by several gifts and bequests. These have made possible broader welfare service to the blind in many walks of life. Among these were the estates of Sada Tracy Card, Charles J. Chisam, Fannie E. Rotier, Margarete Pudor and Emma A. Bailey.

As reported last year, the James B. and Jane R. Bradford Endowment Fund, created by Miss Elizabeth F. Bradford of Milwaukee, contributed \$1,000 to the Institute, \$500 of which went toward the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille.

## COLLECTIVE GIVING

In Light for October, 1939 there appeared an editorial entitled, "Collective Giving," whereby substantial funds might be raised under the slogan, "A penny a day drives darkness away." No concrete plan was presented however as to how this might be done. But the idea struck a responsive chord with Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes who

had previously shown her interest in the Institute by sponsoring benefit exhibitions of Walt Disney original color drawings.

Accordingly, Mrs. Hughes asked if she might have permission to send to her friends at Christmas time, at her own expense, colorful Mexican pottery pig banks large enough to hold 365 pennies for the Braille Institute. The permission was, of course, readily given. About 250 pig banks were promptly sent on their way by Mrs. Hughes to friends throughout the nation, each pig bearing an explanatory card.

In time, many friends of the Braille Institute upon learning



Marshall Perham Photo

Bill La Prath preparing pig banks for shipment.



of the pig bank plan asked if they could participate, and several hundred pig banks were supplied during the years 1940 and 1941. That there is strength in unity, and great good to be accomplished through collective giving, is indicated by the fact that from December, 1939, when Mrs. Hughes first sent the banks to her friends, until the close of the Braille Institute's fiscal year, September 30, 1941, funds amounting to \$2,383.26, have been brought to the Braille Institute. For the twelve months ending September 30, 1941, the pig banks averaged \$145.40 a month.

#### BUILDING NEEDED

Each year, mention has been made in the annual report of the need for a larger building, adequate to house all of our expanding activities for the advancement of the blind. This year, the need is more imperative than ever. Every available nook is utilized in the building at 741 North Vermont Avenue, while the quarters occupied by the free lending library at 654-656 North Vermont Avenue within another year will be outgrown.

A new building, or at least a building large enough to provide ample space for all branches of our welfare activities, would reduce operating and administrative expenses, and at the same time insure improved service. In addition, this building should provide a community center for the local blind, where groups may feel free to meet for recreational and social advantages with a gymnasium, swimming pool, public auditorium, classrooms and facilities for the instruction of the adult blind in the trades and professions, found practicable for them in the pursuit of a livelihood.

#### HOME FOR THE HOMELESS

Last year, we announced as among the many objectives of the Braille Institute, the need for establishing and maintaining a residential home for the homeless and destitute blind as a separate unit of our activities. There has long been a great need for such a home in Southern California. The Institute's social welfare files show an increasing number receiving aid under California's law for the needy blind, who find difficulty in procuring board and room at prices they can afford to pay; and there are many blind in the state not eligible for aid, who are homeless and at the point of destitution. These, above all, need custodial care such as a home for the blind would provide.

#### WORKSHOP AND SALESROOM

There is a great need for giving to the blind of California added opportunity in the handicraft arts for which many of them are especially fitted. Under the direction of the Department of Institutions, California operates three industrial workshops wherein many of the blind are employed. One of these shops is located in Oakland, one in San Diego and one in Los Angeles.

It is understood that each of the shops has a waiting list of blind men and women who seek such employment as a means of rehabilitation. The Los Angeles workshop reports a waiting list of nearly 100, due to lack of facilities. This indicates the need for a privately operated industrial workshop for the blind in Los Angeles, such as is maintained by private agencies in various Eastern cities.

In connection with this project, there should be maintained a salesroom for the marketing of the products made by these blind handicraft workers. Some



time ago the Braille Institute operated such a salesroom in downtown Los Angeles, more or less as an experiment, during the Christmas holidays. That short experience pointed conclusively to the social and economic advantages that would accrue to the blind of Southern California through the maintenance of a salesroom.

There are also many blind persons residing in Los Angeles and vicinity who wish instruction in the handicraft arts. This need is common to the home teachers of the Braille Institute whose instruction is confined to the teaching of Braille and Moon reading, typewriting, etc. Although the State of California furnishes free instruction to the blind in their homes in the industrial arts, here again, as in the case of industrial workshops, an adequate appropriation has not been provided with which to meet the need for enough instructors.

An able-bodied blind person wants a chance, *not charity*; a chance to earn an independent livelihood whereby he can *regain* and *maintain* his independence by way of self-support. To him, "the noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the

best alms is to show and enable a man how to dispense with alms."

While recognizing all these needs, the Braille Institute trustees feel that until adequate funds are available with which to finance fully the welfare service undertaken through its present major activities, it would not be the part of wisdom to assume further responsibilities in the field of welfare service for the blind, such as are imposed in the establishment and maintenance of a residential home for the destitute blind; recreational and physical culture program; free instructions in the industrial arts, known as blind handicraft; and the operation of an industrial workshop and salesroom, the need for which has been outlined in this report.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

A certified audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1941, made by Floyd K. Brown, setting forth receipts and expenditures in detail, is on file in the office of the corporation for examination by any member.

According to this audit the total receipts for the year from all sources aggregated \$66,580.46, showing a slight decrease from the previous year.

The expenditures for the year aggregated \$59,133.68, covering the cost of the following: home teaching, \$954.99; free lending library, \$9,797.17; literature published and distributed, \$40,803.99; business guidance, \$1,484.95; social



Marshall Perham Photo

Sightless workers gathering The Braille Mirror for January.



welfare, \$6,092.58, leaving a net income of \$7,446.78, disposed of as follows: net increase in equipment for use of the Institute, \$1,044.88; development of Braille writer, \$1,743.54; payments on long term notes, \$2,272.81; retained as net increase of working capital, \$2,385.55.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

During the year ending September 30, 1941, the staff members filled speaking engagements before organizations and clubs throughout Southern California. These appearances included, among others, the Newport Harbor Business and Professional Women's Club, the Arroyo Seco Forum, student nurses at St. Vincent's Hospital, Los Angeles, and the philanthropy section, Los Angeles District, California Federation of Women's Clubs.

At the meeting in Newport Beach, requests for 19 pottery pig banks were received and these progressive women enrolled under the slogan, "A penny a day drives darkness away."

Exhibits were arranged for the Security-First National Bank, Hollywood; Melrose Park Methodist Church, Los Angeles; Eliot Junior High School, Pasadena, and the Arizona Committee for the Blind, Clemenceau.

On invitation, a volume of the Braille Bible was displayed at the Ebell Club's Bible exhibit in Los Angeles.

Mr. Lloyd C. Douglas, a member of the advisory board, arranged for an exhibit and gave a talk on the work of the Institute at Bookhaven in Westwood.

Press clippings received during the year included several syndicated articles and re-prints from Light on the subject of "Braille, What Is It?" Stories about the Braille cookbook which has been compiled by Mrs. Evelyn Lee ap-

peared in Sunset Magazine and in the Los Angeles Times.

Anchora of Delta Gamma reprinted "Some Don'ts To Do," a guide for the sighted in their social and business contacts with the blind.

The guest book reveals the names of 572 visitors who registered during the year, including many distinguished men and women in work for the blind, as well as pupils from several schools and college students.

Light was printed three times, in October, January and April, and 9,167 copies were mailed. The magazine was distributed at programs and sample copies given to all visitors at the Institute.

The bulletin was printed in December, March, June and September, a total of 24,660 copies being mailed.

A letter urging defeat of Senate Bill 608 was sent to members of the California Legislature. Copies of this letter were sent to the members of and contributors to the Braille Institute.

A four-page letter was sent to 7,350 attorneys in Southern California, calling attention to the worthiness of the Braille Institute when asked by clients about reputable charitable organizations.

A total of 11,962 letters were mailed to various lists, appealing for funds to support the Institutes activities.

A History and By-Law booklet was issued during the year, which includes among other things considerable information about the blind in the United States and California.

#### PRINTING DEPARTMENT

The Institute's non-commercial printing department, operated continuously throughout the year with the exception of about three weeks. Due to a shortage of zinc at this period, it was neces-



sary to lay off in the stereotyping and proof reading department. A supply of zinc has been obtained by returning old plates to the mill to be reprocessed. In this way, it is hoped that sufficient zinc can be secured to take care of the needs of the coming year.

The paper situation has been given considerable thought and orders have been placed which should be adequate for the needs of the coming year, barring unforeseen developments.

Production the past year ran the highest in the history of the organization, with 115 titles produced, 302 volumes set up, and 64,732 volumes printed.

Sales ran the highest they have ever been, and costs were reduced considerably, due to increased production.

This department employed 19 full-time workers and five part-time workers during the year.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The various activities of this department are so numerous that space does

not permit every one of them to be recorded or classified, but the following indicates to some extent the breadth of this field.

Free distribution of Bibles, magazines, textbooks, Braille and Moon primers, instruction sheets, calendars, clothing, food, radios, white canes, etc.

In one instance, the department served as the channel for the donation of a tandem bicycle. Several pianos were placed, hearing aids were furnished two clients and eye glasses were supplied. Christmas baskets, Braille paper and Christmas books were given, drayage paid, etc.

Free services also include furnishing information, writing letters, binding Braille manuscripts, mimeographing forms for those in business, securing theater tickets, giving names and addresses of places furnishing board and room to blind persons, supplying guides and readers, interceding for those who want interviews to demonstrate their special talents.

A total of 58 students received free instruction from the home teachers during the year, and 71 received special help in Braille or Moon type. Of the regular students, 15 were graduated in Grade Two, 7 in Grade One and a Half, 7 in Moon type, and 29 failed to complete the work and were dropped.

One of the main causes for students not completing a full course in the home teaching department is due to illness. Other common causes are because of removal from the teaching area, regaining enough sight to read ink print, lack of time, and not being



*Marshall Perham Photo*

Tom Hawthorne, student at Los Angeles City College, enters the Braille Institute Library.



mentally alert.

Five volunteer teachers were active at the end of the year and those who served during the year contributed in no small measure to the successful record of this department.

That the three Braille Institute primers comprising the self-instruction course for the mastery of Braille reading are truly practicable and actually meeting a great need in rural districts remote from home teaching centers where personal instruction is available, seems evident in the following extracts from a letter received from a deaf-blind woman residing near Bakersfield.

On April 26, 1940 this client was supplied, free of charge, the Braille Institute's Grade One Primer which contains a simple code of the Braille system. On June 3, she reported she was ready for the Grade One and a Half Primer, which was sent to her. This means that without any personal instruction by a qualified home teacher, she mastered the first primer in just a little more than one month.

Later, the Grade Two Primer was sent to her, and in a letter dated March 16, 1941, she made this comment: "I finished Grade Two and have several Reader's Digest and the English magazine Progress; and though I am by no means an expert, I can read them fairly well with the aid of my primer. I get books from the State Library every week in Grade One and a Half. I can never express my appreciation to the Braille Institute for setting me on the road to such pleasure and enjoyment . . . You see, I am also totally deaf so that ordinary interruptions do not bother me and I have plenty of time to study my primer."

By October 16, 1941 this reader, self-

taught by the Braille Institute's primers wrote asking for a list of titles in Grade One and a Half and Grade Two, saying, "I am especially interested in history, travel and poetry."

The requests for financial aid for business projects have been numerous and a total of \$60 was advanced for rehabilitation, purchase of surgical equipment, loud speaking equipment and amplifier.

Donations included 166 white canes, 22 radios, 11,255 publications and 16 miscellaneous items.

Forty-nine radios were repaired; 170 talking book machines repaired; 306 tickets secured for theaters and concerts; 50 transportation letters were written and 11 miscellaneous items of services listed.

Braille paper was sold at cost as were games and appliances, the primers, as well as transcription of Braille letters for sighted persons in their correspondence with the blind.

The total number of cases listed at the beginning of the year was 1,267. At the end of the year this number was increased to 1,327. The month by month activities of this department affected 889 major cases and 236 minor cases, a total of 1,125 cases.

#### MAGAZINES

The Institute sponsored two monthly Braille magazines during the year, The Braille Mirror and the California Reporter.

The Reporter was sent free to the blind of California to keep them informed with reference to activities in behalf of their welfare. The Mirror was issued at a subscription rate of \$3 to the blind, or about half its actual cost, and a number of free subscriptions were donated from funds received for the purpose.



Circulation of the *Reporter* averaged 996 copies monthly; the *Mirror*, 304.

The February and September issues of The Braille Mirror contained important speeches made by Prime Minister Churchill, and by President Roosevelt. Sample copies of these issues were mailed to institutions for the blind throughout the British Empire.

Many letters of commendation and appreciation have been received from magazine subscribers throughout the year, excerpts from two being reprinted here:

"For years I was an interested reader of The Braille Mirror, but was the recipient of a free copy the greater part of the time. I grew to be ashamed of being on the free list so long, so did not renew my request. I hoped some day to be able to pay for it. I have given up that hope, for conditions seem to be getting worse. However, at this time, if you have any free subscriptions I should be more than happy to

be on your mailing list again. I have missed the magazine since I have been without it."

"The longer the *Mirror* remains in circulation, it seems to me, the better it gets. Regardless of the surprisingly large number of free magazines we have in Braille today, the *Mirror* as a 'paid-for' magazine, still has its own particular, indispensable place in our hands. The policy of the *Mirror* is absolutely right. You try to make it a magazine with something for everybody, and you do so with remarkable success."

#### FREE LENDING LIBRARY

The Braille Institute Library came into existence in 1933. In July, 1934 it became one of the 26 regional libraries distributing embossed literature furnished by the United States government through the Library of Congress. However it receives no governmental aid for maintenance cost.

By December, 1939 the Library had



Marshall Perham Photo

Eleanor Gibson, librarian, discusses book selections with Tom Hawthorne, borrower at Braille Institute Library.



outgrown its original quarters in the building at 741 North Vermont Avenue and in order to provide shelving space for the increasing number of books being received, it was moved to 654-656 North Vermont Avenue.

In December, 1940 it was necessary to make still further changes. The books were re-arranged according to the Dewey Decimal system and another room was added to house the talking books. This work was completed in two weeks and required the assistance of two typists and three page boys in addition to the regular library staff.

From February to May, 1941 the staff consisted of the librarian, a part-time shipping clerk, a page boy and a student furnished by the National Youth Administration. On May 19, 1941 a full-time shipping clerk was employed to replace the three part-time assistants.

During the year the number of Braille books was increased by 692 volumes and now totals 8,855 volumes. We are receiving from 15 to 26 books in Braille each month, including as many as seven current fiction and non-fiction best-sellers.

Moon books were increased by 99 volumes and now total 987 volumes.

Talking books were increased by 457 containers and now total 1,108 containers.

Registration cards have been received during the year from 17 Braille readers, 7 Moon and 71 talking book borrowers, raising our total to 583 active borrowers.

Circulation during the year covered 3,097 Braille volumes, 429 Moon volumes, 10,754 talking book containers and 1,044 periodicals.

Due to territorial restrictions imposed

by the Library of Congress, the service of the library cannot be extended to all who request it, however during the year titles in the reference division of the library, furnished from Braille Institute funds, were sent to readers in various states in the Union and to several foreign countries.

The following are extracts from letters sent in by grateful patrons:

"The books you have been sending me are very interesting and I have enjoyed them immensely."

"There is certainly a big increase in the number of books available for which I am very thankful."

"It has been my pleasure now for the past few weeks to be a reader of the talking book. I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed them."

"This is a wonderful service you are giving to the blind and I know they are all thankful."

Sales

Service

BOB C. SCHAEFER

RADIO

RECORDERS

TELEVISION

EXposition  
2829

Cabinet and Wall  
Installations



# YOUR OPPORTUNITY...

To assist the blind in their struggle for self-support. Often a loan of \$25 or \$50 is sufficient to give a blind person a new lease on life.

To give assistance to the needy blind who are not eligible for governmental aid under Federal and State laws. Approximately 60 per cent of the nation's 130,000 blind lost their sight after 50 years of age—beyond the age of rehabilitation for self-support.

To help maintain the Braille Institute Library. This free lending library serves the blind of California and Arizona—a territory assigned to it by the Library of Congress as one of the regional libraries to distribute literature furnished by the United States government. Such literature circulates through the mail free of postage, however the maintenance cost of the library, approximating \$10,000 a year, is borne entirely by the Braille Institute out of general funds or from contributions designated for that purpose.

To furnish free radio service.

To assist with the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, free to the blind or at prices they may be able to pay below the non-profit production cost.

To provide a permanent fund to sustain the manufacturing cost of Braille writers in lots of 100 or more. These writers will be marketed to the blind at cost, no charge to be included therein for development of dies and jigs. To meet the demand already received from the blind all over the nation, funds should be available at once to make their production immediately possible.

To furnish free or subsidized subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine issued to the blind at a special rate of \$3 a year, the cost being about \$6.

Contributions are always needed to maintain these activities. Kindly return the attached coupon with your contribution and you will receive immediately a receipt therefor and be listed among the good friends who have made possible our twenty-two years of welfare service to the blind.

.....

Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to take this opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$..... to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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April, 1942



## A BLIND DOCTOR

By JAMES H. COLLINS

WHEN the young doctor finishes college, and hangs out his shingle in a strange neighborhood, everybody knows that he is up against it, and may have to wait weeks for his first patient.

If the young doctor is totally blind, he might have to wait a good deal longer.

Dr. Fred N. Souleles is a blind chiropractor who hung out his shingle at 4407 South Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, in October, 1940, and for several weeks there were no patients, and then only two or three from Monday to Saturday through the first six months.

Today, he is comfortably busy, and after eighteen months, has a practice which, while there is plenty of room for growth, is soundly based on a rising reputation for helping those who come to him.

His first patients were mostly friends, and they sent their friends.

But, also, strangers passing along the

street saw the doctor's sign, and came in for treatment, and came back, and sent their friends. Not all of these street patients noticed that the young doctor was blind, for Souleles is a tall, good-looking young man, and his eyes are uninjured, except for sight.

If a Hindoo patient came in, he might take Dr. Souleles for a god. In Hindoo stories, a god is always recognized by unwinking eyes, and also by standing off the floor. Dr. Souleles' eyes are unblinking, but he stands on the floor, five feet eleven.

Fred Souleles had normal sight until he was eight, and then a rundown physical condition led to rapid and complete blindness. That was in 1925. He is a Los Angeles boy, born in 1917, and so is now twenty-five.

He had four sisters, but no brothers, and his mother immediately planned for her only boy a normal boy's life. He was encouraged to run and play with sighted boys, to join the Boy



Scouts, go hiking and camping, keep up his end, keep up with the gang.

"I suppose Mother must have worried about me, at times," he says, "but she seemed to feel that I ought to be leading an active life, even if there was some risk of my breaking my neck."

She had the spirit of the Spartan mother who, giving her son his shield, said, "Return with it, or on it, my son."

He was educated entirely with sighted youngsters, in Los Angeles public schools, including Polytechnic and Junior High, until in 1937 he knew what he wanted to do in life, and entered the Southern California College of Chiropractic, in Los Angeles. Three

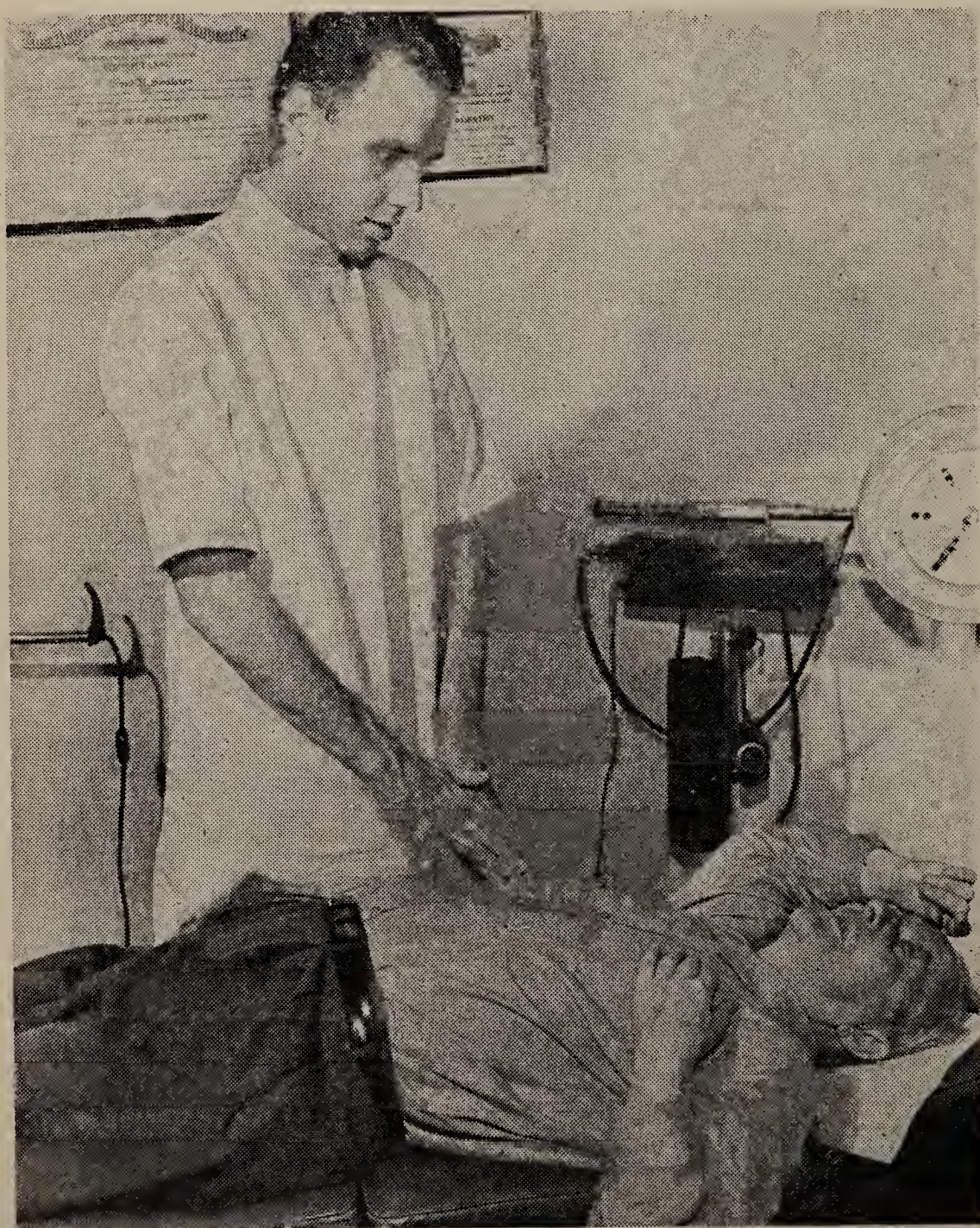
years later, he was graduated, and started building a practice.

The Boy Scouts did as much for him as his mother, for he is an Eagle Scout, with two palms, which means that he has won merit badges for twenty-one kinds of activity, out of more than a hundred to choose from, with five additional badges for each of the palms.

In Scout work, first aid interested him most of all, and eventually led to his choosing chiropractic healing as his vocation. He had an inborn interest in anatomy, how people were put together, how they ran, or ought to run, and what might be the matter with them when they didn't run so well. Quite apart from his handicap, he would have wanted to be a doctor.

Then, he was a keen radio "ham", an amateur builder of sets as well as a Government-licensed short-wave operator, spending as many hours as possible at it during school and college, and making hundreds of distant friends through radio communication. This was still another way of being with people. He talked as far as Australia, while in the United States his "ham" pals were not only scattered over the whole nation, but many came to see him while visiting Southern California.

Now, such communication is "out" on account of the war, but



Dr. Fred Souleles examining a patient.—Eleanor Taylor Photo.



the radio amateurs are busy with emergency communication activities allotted to them by the Government, and Souleles is enlisted in that part of the war program. It is not entirely a war program, because under the Los Angeles County disaster council, set up long before war, for other emergencies, the radio amateurs would be called upon in a catastrophe, to replace telephone, telegraph and other communications.

Experience in radio, and its mechanics, was useful in his professional training — strong, deft, schooled hands are part of the chiropractor's art, as of the surgeon's.

As a Scout, he liked to hike, especially in mountain country, and to ride horseback, and swim.

His first merit badges were won for first aid, public health and swimming. The Scout swimming test is a handful for sighted people, because the candidate is required to dive into deep water fully clothed, remove his clothes in the water and toss them ashore, demonstrate several styles of swimming, including a 100-yard distance swim, and finally rescue persons who simulate drowning, and try to pull the candidate under.

They might have picked out a couple of little fellows to act as rescued persons, in view of Souleles'



Dr. Souleles with his wife and dog starts for an outing on their tandem bicycle.

handicap — but they didn't. He is a husky himself, and so they gave him the works, with other huskies. He got absolutely no discounts—but his merit badge for swimming made him all the happier.

The young doctor is married, and his wife, Ruby Thompson Souleles, works with him in the office, doing all the sighted work, and helping him build his practice. However, when she doesn't happen to be there, as receptionist, he gets along nicely with people. All the equipment is at his finger's ends, and as has been said, not all patients notice that he is blind.

On the whole, with sight, Dr. Fred Souleles probably would have got along no further in life than he has succeeded in doing under his handicap.





# THE BLIND ALSO SERVE IN WAR

By JOHN MAPPELBECK

**I**F YOU are going to ride a bicycle, then you will have to have some way of carrying around all the odds and ends that clutter up the back seat of the family car.

Thousands of prospective bike riders discovered this, weeks ago, and so orders for thousands of rattan basket carriers for bicycles suddenly poured into the Los Angeles Industrial Workshop for the Blind, at 239 West Adams Boulevard.

War work?

Yes, indirectly—and the shop is busy on other products more closely related to war and our fighting forces.

In quantity, pillowcases for the Army and Navy are the big product. For months, the output has been over 1,000 daily, and lately that was doubled, and soon the volume will be 80,000 a month. Most of them go to California camps and navy yards, and while the Gov-

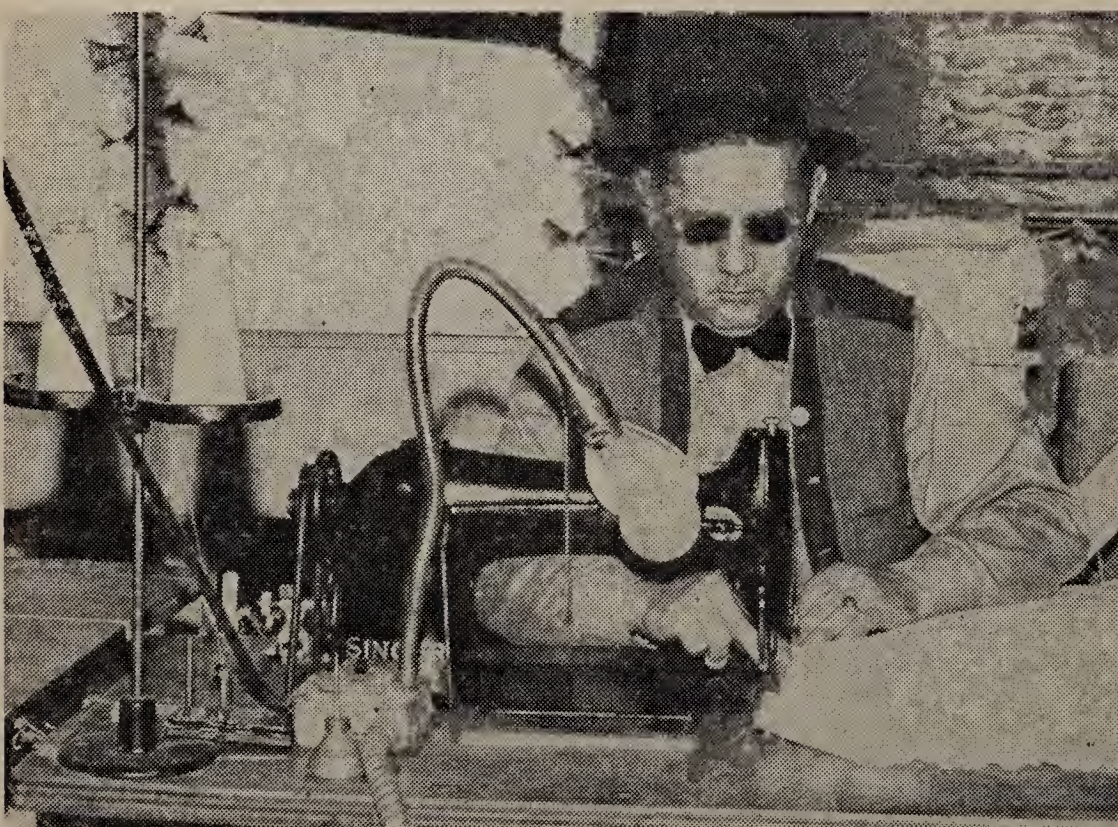
ernment is critical in its inspection of all war supplies, the shop has speeded up its capacity so that occasionally it has run out of material. There have been very few rejects, and now the material kinks have been pretty well straightened out by Washington authorities.

Sleeping bags for soldiers are more complicated, being made of cloth quilted on kapok, with zipper closures, very warm, and very light. The shop makes large numbers for nearby Army posts, and has had little work rejected.

Mattresses, mats, mops, brooms and other articles needed by the Army and Navy are being made to specifications, for Uncle Sam was quick to put the blind to work, and the Treasury Department Procurement Division has set up a Committee on Purchases of Blind-Made Products, and machinery for purchasing such articles from the blind non-profit agencies like the Los Angeles workshop.

In addition, the shop is doing its regular work in basketry repairs on furniture, and the production of bassinets, shopping baskets and carts, and its goods for the retail trade and state institutions.

Rubber door-mats are an old stand-by, made from reclaimed rubber with a minimum of wire to hold them together. A good deal of this production now



—Eleanor Taylor Photo.

Charles Ostheimer, totally without sight, works skillfully on the sewing machine making pillowcases for the U. S. Army.



goes into aircraft and other war factories, to ease work for mechanics who have to kneel or lie down.

Mattresses are made for hospitals, hotels and veterans' homes, and also brought in for renovation—a busy department.

Just now, the shop thinks it rates an orchid on a new line of chenille rugs, in fourteen pastel tints and shades, designed before war work began to dominate production, and good merchandise whenever we get back to pastel shades again.

The Los Angeles shop is proud of its financial showing, and Superintendent George Allsey Brown recently gave some figures, in a talk to workers, in support of his belief that it is among the most successful enterprises for the blind in the country.

Total sales of products for the year ending in June can now be estimated with accuracy, and will amount to about \$170,000. February sales this year were above \$20,000, compared with \$6,283 for 1941, an increase of 228 percent, largely credited to war work.

Total wages paid for fiscal 1942 will be around \$48,000. As the number of employees, blind or partially blind, is now 92, the average monthly earnings have been \$52. The Los Angeles shop stands at the top in wages, and the trend is steadily up, having increased 27 per cent during the past three years.

Again, the Los Angeles shop has bought most of its machinery out of its earnings,

maintaining a revolving fund for that purpose. A good deal of small machinery is used for stitching and other operations; much of the work is handicraft, but wherever machinery can be used, it is installed, because the business is always in competition on costs. The revolving fund now amounts to \$66,000, but war growth is crowding space, and also the capital funds for expansion.

All over the country, blind workers are producing for war needs in institutional shops, and the crying need for more hands, more man-hours, more production! is also drawing the blind into outside jobs.

In Seattle, the United States Employment Service has set up special facilities for blind job-hunters, in charge of John H. McAulay, a blind placement officer, who interviews blind applicants, gives various types of tests to find out what kind of work the applicant is best suited for, and is able himself to demonstrate many kinds of work within blind people's abilities. He has repeatedly gone into factories and done such work himself.

Blind workers are operating ma-



—Eleanor Taylor Photo

Bill Ellwood, with not over five per cent vision, is handy with the machine making sleeping bags for the Army.



chines, making assemblies, doing inspection work, salvaging metals and performing many other operations in Seattle plants ranging from aircraft to breweries.

McAulay not only finds jobs for them, and "sells" employers on their ability,

tend to "herd", and become a peculiar race apart. When they work singly with sighted employees, they become part of the life of the plant.

An amusing discovery made by McAulay is, that where a blind worker depends on a dog, it is about twice as



Roy Binzer, right, totally blind, makes cartons in a Seattle brewery. He receives the same pay per day and turns out the same amount of work as the sighted man at the left.



Lloyd Anderson is technically blind, but he manages to hit the nail on the head instead of his thumb, as he nails up stove crates in a stove and foundry company. He also helps on the rip-saw.

—Photos Courtesy Seattle Times.

but has made a point of putting blind workers among sighted workers as far as possible. He has an ideal ratio for this, saying that there ought to be a thousand sighted workers for each blind worker. This is an advantage to the blind worker, making him more self-reliant. When a group of blind people are set at work together, they

hard to "sell" him to an employer as where he is self-reliant, and goes alone. The blind worker is at first a distraction to the employer, and the dog is also a distraction. In one case, a blind job-hunter solved this problem for everybody by letting his dog take him to the factory gate, and parking the animal outside, in a kennel.





## 'OUT OF THE DARK, NEW LIGHT'

On Thanksgiving afternoon, 1939, Edith Wakeman Hughes, a most gracious and benevolent lady, was listening to the radio. It was singular that four of the programs dramatized the handicap of blindness. Two of them concluded with Abraham Lincoln's philosophy of the "New Light", recalling the Great American's lines,

"Out of the depths—  
Fresh strength.  
"Out of the dark—  
New light;  
"And even in the gloom,  
We are on the way."

These words opened up a train of thought that caused Mrs. Hughes to initiate the pig bank plan, designed to raise funds for the blind through the Braille Institute of America under the slogan "A penny a day drives darkness away."

Started at first among Mrs. Hughes's personal friends, now nearly five hundred Mexican pottery pigs have been placed throughout the United States. Already the returns from this fund raising project have brought in several thousand dollars to be devoted to the welfare of the blind.

In these times when the charitably inclined are being called upon almost

daily for contributions to such worthy causes as United China Relief, Russian War Relief, USO, Red Cross, and many others, it becomes a problem to know just how to make one's budget cover them all.

The pig bank plan, sponsored by the Braille Institute, furnishes the opportunity to save a penny a day for the blind. And the procedure is simple.

Just write to the Braille Institute, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, requesting a pig bank. Immediately a colorful little pottery pig bank, made by good neighbors on the south, will be sent by parcel post. When the bank has been out for a year, the keeper of

the pig is reminded that the time for marketing is at hand.

A slaughtered pig should yield at least \$3.65 to the cause of the blind, and by saving only a penny a day for the blind, everyone should be able to continue

—Len Weissman Photo

Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes and J. Robert Atkinson, managing director of the Braille Institute, find the proceeds from these pig banks very gratifying.

their support to other worthy welfare agencies at the same time.

Let the Braille Institute send you a Braille pig to tend for the coming year. You'll enjoy the color he lends to the surroundings; and the opportunity afforded to participate in the cause of the blind will bring no little satisfaction.

Remember: "A penny a day drives darkness away."





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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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Carlton Eldridge, blind tenor of Lansing, Michigan, heard last winter on the Wishing-Well program of the National Broadcasting Company, has made his first commercial phonograph recording. On one side he has recorded the number, "Into Thy hands I commend my Spirit," from the "Seven Last Words of Christ," by Theodore Dubois, appearing as tenor soloist with the Eastern High School choir of seventy voices and organ accompaniment. On the other side he has recorded the operatic aria "Una furtiva lachrima", with piano accompaniment. The records were made by the recording department at Michigan State College. They are 12-inch discs, to play at 78 rpm. Mr. Eldridge is choir director at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Lansing.

✦

Boy Scouts, Troop 198, Bronx, New York, whose thirty members are all without sight, are being taught first aid methods. In recent tests they have acquitted themselves admirably. Blackouts are nothing new to them.

✦

An interior decorator before she lost her sight, Bernice Clifton was recently called in consultation with a number of decorators and asked to submit a solution to a difficult problem that had arisen. Because she "visualized" the problem so well, she got the job. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, "she is both appealing and successful in her lecturing".

A blinded World War veteran, Stewart Arnold of Tillamook, Oregon, has organized a guerrilla band of 1,000 loggers and others, to train to fight off any invasion attempt by the enemy. The guerrillas have mapped off sections for each company to guard and have pledged also to help farmers get in their crops despite what threatens to become the worst agricultural labor shortage in history. They'll be brush fighters too. "We're just sort of backing up the army," Arnold explained. "The army probably will take care of the Japs if they try to land on the beaches," he added, "but our boys will be pleased to meet any who might slip through into the woods." The woodsmen, farmers and townspeople provide their own rifles and ammunition. They have no uniforms. They do no drilling. But they meet once a week for target practice.

✦

One of the first great road builders in England was a blind man, John Metcalf, born at Knaresborough, Yorkshire, in 1717, blinded at the age of 6, lived to be 93. The amazing exploits of this blind man are recounted in a volume on "Lives of the Engineers". He could safely make 200 mile trips over unknown paths and often served as guide to people with sight. He was a shrewd judge of horseflesh and was a bold rider. On a wager he once rode on a circular track and won the race, having posted men with big dinner bells to warn him when he rode



close to the edge of the track. One story relates how Metcalf told his workmen that the ground on which he stood was different from that nearby and if they dug down a few feet they would strike gravel or stone. The men dug—and found a long buried Roman causeway, which was soon contributing stone for Metcalf's road. His last job, finished in 1792, was the road from Haslingden to Acrington. It took two years to complete it and he collected \$17,500, but found himself \$200 out of pocket at the end. He retired and spent the rest of his life on his farm at Spoforth.

★

The American Hobby Federation at the sixth annual American Hobby Show recently presented William R. Buck, blind wood-carver, with a special award for the handicapped. Fannie Hurst, prominent author, made the presentation to Mr. Buck, who is now 78 years old and who began wood-carving at the age of 73. Miss Hurst commented, "Mr. Buck and I are old friends. For many years I bought my newspapers from him when he was one of the many blind news-dealers sponsored by the Lighthouse. When he left the stand I lost track of him and am simply amazed at what he has done with his leisure time since then. These beautiful hand-carved animals are a delight to the eye, more so because they are carved entirely by the

sense of touch. Truly, for Mr. Buck life began at 73." Mr. Buck and his wife celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary three years ago.

★

The American tour of Maebelle Barney, blind musician, was announced recently from Los Angeles. Totally blind from her childhood, Miss Barney graduated from high school in Boise, Idaho, at the age of 15. She has a remarkable memory and in a few lessons at the keyboard mastered all the major and minor keys and scales. She enjoys domesticity and delights in cooking and entertaining guests. Her repertoire of 250 compositions includes such favorites as Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata; Handel's Largo; Chopin's Waltz, opus 64, No. 2; Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C Sharp Minor; The Sleigh by Richard Kountz; When Children Pray by Fenner; The Lord's Prayer by Malotte; the works of modern composers and hymns and songs of the Church.



—Marshall Perham Photo

William T. Pinney, maker of fine chess boards, designed one specially for the blind. In this picture, Mr. Pinney is demonstrating its use with Mrs. Beatrice Carson, proof-reader at the Braille Institute. This board was in turn sent to the Industrial Home for the Blind, Oakland, where it will be enjoyed by the residents there.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XIV      April, 1942      Number 3

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## *Speak Japanese?*

The National Society for the Blind, 1112 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C., is seeking the name and address of any blind American citizen who speaks Japanese.



## *Moon Type Primer*

A new and revised edition of the Braille Institute's Moon Type primer is just off the press. Containing 25 pages, it is printed on hard, durable paper, includes the alphabet, word exercises and reading drills consisting of three short stories, bound in good paper cover, Price, \$1.00, postpaid.



## *Memberships, Contributions and Bequests*

As a private agency, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., is dependent entirely upon membership dues, voluntary contributions and bequests from the public for its funds.

Readers of *Light* are earnestly asked to contribute what they can to this end, or apply for a membership, as listed on the inside back cover of this issue.

We realize, perhaps vaguely, the many appeals *Light* readers receive each week from agencies engaged in relief work of some kind—agencies just as worthy of support as is the Braille Institute and the cause of the blind.

Nevertheless, we entertain the hope that contributions may be forthcoming at this time.

If commitments or pledges to the handicapped and needy are such as to preclude additional contributions just now, please keep this need in mind for attention at a more convenient season. Readers are also invited to investigate thoroughly the worthiness of the Braille Institute as a beneficiary in wills or insurance policies.



## *No Light for July*

As was done during the last two years, there will be no *Light* for July, 1942. Summer vacations, the need for conservation of paper and many other items, in the interest of economy and of winning the war, are sufficient reasons fully to justify this decision.



## *Success Stories*

Within the year, Genevieve Wiley, sightless singer and composer of Pasadena, has had her second song published. It is entitled, "Love Story", with words by Mildred Goff of San Diego. Like Miss Wiley's first published song, "The Little Pig", "Love Story" makes a charming encore number. It can be secured locally through Fenner Publications, 1017 South Westlake Avenue.

Glyn Smith, whose Blind Artists Guild program is heard on KFWB Saturdays at 4:30 p. m., has established a recording studio in his home. Here you may go, sit down, compose yourself and get thoroughly at ease before making the recording. A friend would be delighted with a recorded message, and relatives would treasure the transcription of a child's recitation or song, which might be preserved for years to come. This unique recording studio is located at 1342 South Sierra Bonita, Los Angeles. Telephone, WHitney 4377.



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## BOOKS FOR VICTORY

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John Griesinger rebinding best-sellers of fiction and non-fiction, to be donated to the Victory Book Drive. Volumes of the Braille edition of *Wild Is the River* by Louis Bromfield, awaiting shipment to various regional libraries, are shown in the background.—*Eleanor Taylor Photo.*

**S**OLDIERS, sailors and marines need not be suspicious when they encounter strange pencilled markings on some of the books donated to the Victory Book Drive. They are not code letters put there by the enemy, nor are they notes from some romantically inclined sub-deb.

Several hundred books, all popular best-sellers of fiction and non-fiction, have been re-bound at the Braille Institute of America and donated to the book drive. These books were used originally as "copy" in the making of Braille books for the use of the blind. The ink-print volume is torn apart and portions are written by several Braille stereotypists. When the Braille type has been set on the zinc plate, the operator makes a mark on the ink-print copy and pulls a "proof", which is in turn read by the blind proof-readers

and more pencilled notations are made by the copy-holders. In other respects the books are clean and quite sanitary.

These dismantled books have been re-bound, the work all being done voluntarily as a patriotic gesture by John Griesinger, Los Angeles bookbinder, in the bindery of the Braille Institute. To the United Printing Company, Los Angeles, courtesy is also due for service rendered. The books will be taken to the nearest branch library for distribution to the various camps.

Noting the request for 100 volumes from the naval training station at Tutuila, Samoa, the hope is entertained that some of these books from the Braille Institute may find their way to that South Sea outpost. The Institute's former superintendent, and a press-man, now serving with the Marine Corps, may read them there.



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*New Zealand Institute for the Blind*, Auckland. The Director's annual report for the fifty-first year shows progress in the various departments. Sales of the workshops increased and the general output is going ahead rapidly. During the year, four new houses were built and alterations were made on three others. It is hoped that in time all married men will be able to have houses, and not be separated from their families and wives. At present three members of the staff are on active service, two more serving with the Forces in New Zealand, and another two are doing part-time duty with the Reserve Forces. The blind people are taking an active interest in the war work. They have given their services freely with the band, and are sending gifts to enlisted soldiers from the Institute. The Institute receives a government subsidy, the amount for the year being £5,101.

\* \* \*

*National Society for the Blind*, Washington, D. C. This Society reports the outlook for employment for the blind has never been more favorable. To help overcome the "traditional opinion" of "doubting Thomases" the Society has published "Letters from Sighted Employers of Blind Employees", in booklet form. It was compiled by Lawrence Q. Lewis. These letters cover many types of normal employment in many states, are exact reproductions of original letters, and are without editorial comment. They should be of value to anyone interested in the employment of the blind. The Society, 1112 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C., can

supply copies from a limited edition at the printing and mailing cost of 75 cents per copy. The Society has given wide circulation to a reprint from the *Seattle Times*, showing how the blind are being employed in that locality.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's for Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London, England. A memorial service honoring the founder of St. Dunstan's, Sir Arthur Pearson, was held December 11, 1941. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. C. Nugee, himself a St. Dunstaner. He spoke of Sir Arthur's life, his fitness for this great work, having lost his sight gradually. Sir Arthur always agreed that blindness was a handicap—but the longest handicap was given to the best man. "You Can Conquer Your Blindness," by Captain Sir Ian Fraser, M. P., chairman of St. Dunstan's, is an 8-page pamphlet that should be very helpful to the newly blinded, as well as those who care for them.

\* \* \*

*Nursery School for Visually Handicapped Children*, Los Angeles. According to Anchora of Delta Gamma, the great problem of the Nursery School, since its inception in October 1938, has been one of holding the growth of the school within reasonable proportions of the income which must support it. As Delta Gamma's welfare project, the school opened as a day-school with two students and one teacher. In order to maintain the training, it was found that it would be wise to keep the children over night. This necessitated larger quarters and more attendants. Soon there were six children. When



war was declared the school had seven children and a waiting list of eight. Already the school has helped more than 45 children and the waiting list of eight has caused the board to make the decision to continue the school even in these trying times when the problem of financing the project becomes more complicated.

\* \* \*

*Idaho Progressive Society for the Blind*, Boise. As the Society enters its eighth year, Uldine Gartin was installed as president at the regular executive committee meeting January 29. Other officers elected for the biennium include: Ralph Branson, vice-president; Dan Black, treasurer; Mrs. Ralph Branson, corresponding secretary; Alberta B. Toner, recording secretary. Miss Gartin is the newly appointed state instructor of the adult blind.

\* \* \*

*Virginia Commission for the Blind*, Richmond. The new building to house the commission was recently dedicated by Governor James H. Price. It is of colonial design, fireproof construction, with ample space for the offices and workshops. The building cost \$80,000 and was financed jointly by the State, the WPA and the Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind. A school for men, similar to the new building, is housed in a modern fireproof structure in Charlottesville, where there is maintained a mattress factory and several training classes.

\* \* \*

*Royer-Greaves School for the Blind*, Paoli, Pennsylvania. This school, founded for and conducted primarily for the retarded blind child, has been moved from King of Prussia to Paoli, Pennsylvania. In its new setting of thirteen acres, there is ample space for

vegetable and flower gardens and extensive playgrounds. A large workshop in a separate building houses the school, handcraft and home duty classes. Royer-Greaves Monthly is published to stimulate compositions by the pupils and keep the families and public informed of the school's activities.

\* \* \*

*American Foundation for the Blind*, New York, N. Y. As part of its three-fold program to make classes more interesting for sightless students, the American Foundation for the Blind is sponsoring an educational model project. Collections of models made to scale and representing many famous buildings throughout the world will be established in schools for blind children. Some of the models will have removable roofs or side-walls, so that the interior planning can be explored by the fingertips. The project will include models of dairy farms, factories and skyscrapers.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind*, Watertown, Massachusetts. From the outset of events which ultimately led this country into war, Perkins has been alert to find its rightful place in the war program, both as an institution and also for its people. A year ago girls were knitting sweaters for the Red Cross in free time. Now all of the time of the Boys' and Girls' Manual Training Departments is devoted to war work. More sweaters, other knitted goods, and sewed articles are being prepared by the girls, while the boys are making stretchers for the First Aid Stations of Watertown and games for the hospitals, as requested by the Red Cross.

(Continued on Page 16)



Perkins' program for defense, which provides for air-raid shelters, fire control, emergency feeding, and evacuation, attracted so much attention that the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety sent a representative to investigate the plan.

\* \* \*

*American Association of Workers for the Blind*, Vocational Division. Bulletin No. IV, from Mr. Frank A. Wrench, chairman, reports placements in New York State, Kansas, Canada and Virginia. New York reports placements in civil service as a dictaphone operator; a monologist as an entertainer in a recreation camp; and a blind girl, graduate of Russell Sage, was placed in practical training in the department of public welfare as an investigator. Kansas reported a deaf man, with 5 per cent vision in the right eye only, had been employed to make egg crates, turning out from eleven to fifteen crates per hour, driving 57 nails per crate. He was trained for ten days at a small plant near his home. A totally blind man was placed in a mill on a sack cleaning job. A young man with no central vision secured work in the stock room of an aircraft plant and has received two increases in salary. Canada reported several placements in war work: a shell lifter and cleaner; screw gauge operator; gauger of laminations for armatures; drill press operator; automatic tapping machine operator. An inventor contacted the Virginia placement department and as a result four blind girls are assembling his distributing file that can be set up on a desk to hold twelve or fifteen different groups of papers at one time. The first order was for 350 and each girl is assembling them at the rate of 6 to 9 per day. A

bank hired an elevator operator for employees only, with less than 20/70 vision. A nationally known wholesale-to-home distributor employed a blind man as salesman. With the aid of a sighted driver he is selling their products in one of the southwestern Virginia counties.

\* \* \*

*New York Association for the Blind*, New York, N. Y. The Lighthouse of the Association is trying out a project whereby the blind are sorting the metal rivets swept from the floors of aircraft factories. Heretofore these rivets have been re-melted rather than being left for the tedious task of sorting in seven or eight different sizes and shapes. It is reported that the difference in size is so slight that the average eye cannot discern it, but the blind, with their acute sense of touch, may be able to do the job.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the  
Braille Institute of America, Inc., Los  
Angeles, California  
(Insert description of money or  
property given)  
for the general uses and purposes of the  
corporation.

ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing)	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 12.....	.15
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)....	.15
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured  
on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking .....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men .....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus	2.00
Hill String Lineguide (for longhand writing) .....	2.50



# HISTORY

THE Braille Institute of America, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the nation's blind. Chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille System, and with its headquarters in Los Angeles, it stands on the Pacific Coast as a memorial to that blind benefactor, Louis Braille, whose ingenuity made truly practical the publication of literature of all kinds in raised print for the blind.

The origin of the Braille Institute dates back to 1919, when an unincorporated, philanthropic institution known as "Universal Braille Press," devoted exclusively to the literary welfare of the blind through the printing of good literature of all kinds in Braille, was established in Los Angeles, California.

Its founding by J. Robert Atkinson was made possible through the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, who on September 13, 1919, pledged a sum of \$25,000 for the purpose, payable \$5,000 a year. The pledge was made on the condition that Mr. Atkinson would assume full responsibility for the establishment and management of such an institution; and in order that he might devote his entire time to the project, the gift included a salary stipulation for the five years. All the conditions of this benevolent contract were faithfully fulfilled.

Between the years 1912 and 1919, Mr. Atkinson had demonstrated his fitness to establish a printing plant for the blind by transcribing into Braille by hand a unique library of scientific work, consisting of more than 960,000 words, bound in 16 large Braille volumes, prepared for his own use. It was this accomplishment that inspired

Mr. and Mrs. Longyear spontaneously to offer financial assistance.

Soon the benevolence of this newly founded publishing plant was felt by the blind of the nation and to some extent the literary service rendered by it benefited many of the English-reading blind of other nations. Gradually, the demands for social and economic welfare service brought the conviction that an institution founded on broader principles was the need, and to accomplish this the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered on September 30, 1929.

Governed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, and established to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, the Braille Institute ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

Since September 1919, therefore, the Braille Institute and the forces which gave rise to its incorporation have been rendering social and economic welfare service to the adult blind in California and the nation to the extent funds permitted; and its literary service has enriched the English-reading blind of the world.

In recognition of this, the work of the Braille Institute was given generous space by Rockwell D. Hunt, A.M., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School, University of Southern California, in his elaborate work, "California and Californians," published in 1932. Perhaps more gratifying still is the fact that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., has merited recognition as a national agency in work for the blind by the editors of the Social Work Year Book of the Russell Sage Foundation.



# YOUR OPPORTUNITY...

To assist the blind in their struggle for self-support. Often a loan of \$25 or \$50 is sufficient to give a blind person a new lease on life.

To give assistance to the needy blind who are not eligible for governmental aid under Federal and State laws. Approximately 60 per cent of the nation's 130,000 blind lost their sight after 50 years of age—beyond the age of rehabilitation for self-support.

To help maintain the Braille Institute Library. This free lending library serves the blind of California and Arizona—a territory assigned to it by the Library of Congress as one of the regional libraries to distribute literature furnished by the United States government. Such literature circulates through the mail free of postage, however the maintenance cost of the library, approximating \$10,000 a year, is borne entirely by the Braille Institute out of general funds or from contributions designated for that purpose.

To furnish free radio service.

To assist with the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, free to the blind or at prices they may be able to pay below the non-profit production cost.

To provide a permanent fund to sustain the manufacturing cost of Braille writers in lots of 100 or more. These writers will be marketed to the blind at cost, no charge to be included therein for development of dies and jigs. To meet the demand already received from the blind all over the nation, funds should be available at once to make their production immediately possible.

To furnish free or subsidized subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror," a monthly magazine issued to the blind at a special rate of \$3 a year, the cost being about \$6.

Contributions are always needed to maintain these activities. Kindly return the attached coupon with your contribution and you will receive immediately a receipt therefor and be listed among the good friends who have made possible our twenty-two years of welfare service to the blind.

.....  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to take this opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$..... to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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Vol. XV, No. 1

October, 1942



*No. 1 of 1942 issue published*

## THE BLIND, TOO, HAVE PRIORITIES

By JAMES H. COLLINS

PRIORITIES are nothing new to the blind—long before national defense made business men familiar with this interesting game of "Go—No Go," several thousand sightless men and women over the land began wrestling with the problem of setting up a vending stand in a Government building, under the rules of the Randolph-Sheppard Blind Employment Act, which was passed in 1936.

Under priorities, the business man seeks to keep his business alive.

Under the Randolph-Sheppard law, blind persons seek to get into a self-supporting business, starting from zero.

In Montana, more than five years after the law was passed, Mrs. Thelma Tapp Janssen, with only five percent vision, has become the proprietor of a vending stand in the Federal building at Great Falls. About 1,200 visually handicapped people have got into similar enterprises over the country. Some states have still to make a start. California has a few

stands, which may be considered a start, but nothing to boast of.

The delays are not due to the law, because it is a good law.

Money to finance the building and stocking of a stand is the chief obstacle. Few blind persons have the \$300 to \$500 needed. Uncle Sam has thousands of postoffices and other Government buildings waiting. But each stand must be financed by private capital, which means that generous persons in sympathy with capable blind people must lend or donate the capital.

In most cases it has been lending, for the kind of blind men and women who qualify for the operation of such a business are able to repay over a period of years, while making a living for themselves, and often for dependents.

Mrs. Janssen's stand, opened during the Christmas shopping season last winter, enables her to earn about \$15 a week, for herself and her four-year-old son.



She starts her day at quarter to eight in the morning, for the convenience of people who come for early mail, and keeps open until late afternoon, selling newspapers, magazines, magazine subscriptions, cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, candy and miscellaneous package goods.

The first step in starting such a business is, personal qualification with the state commission for the blind.

Mrs. Janssen is a graduate of the Great Falls high school, has always been handicapped visually, and had been employed by a local institution at work within her abilities. Five per cent vision is barely enough to enable one to find the way around, and work has to be done by feeling. She was selected on the basis of her dependability, personality, need for an enterprise that would afford support, and upon low visual acuity, and during the nine months since her stand was opened, she has proved so capable in management, service and saleswomanship, that State Supervisor Sharon R. Cromeenes, of the Montana Commission for the Blind, is proud of her success, and hopeful that funds may be forthcoming for other stands throughout the State.

It was the Lions and the Lionesses of



Mrs. Thelma Tapp Janssen, proprietor of the vending stand in the Federal building at Great Falls, Montana.

Great Falls who solved the financial problem for Mrs. Janssen. P. W. Callahan is a member of the commission, and also heads the Great Falls Lions' committee on blind welfare, which has been active since 1934. The financing of this vending stand was a new venture, partly experimental, and Mrs. Janssen's efficiency as an operator promises to make her business the model for more enterprises of the same kind.

Probably the greatest success in establishing public building stands has been in Washington, D. C., where there are innumerable Government buildings. But Washington has been enterprising in forming a private organization to lend funds and get blind operators started. Oklahoma and Arkansas have also been leaders. California has still to get started, and Los Angeles has so far financed only two stands—one downtown, and the other in the Hollywood postoffice.

Probably one blind person in a hundred is able to qualify for the operation of a vending stand, because the business calls for salesmanship, accounting ability, physical stamina for long hours behind a counter, and the kind of personality that would make a success regardless of visual handicap.

Because the only sound way of financing such an enterprise is on the loan basis, with the owner repaying the capital in installments over a term of years, an effort has been made to have a Federal law passed, making it possible for qualified blind persons to borrow from a bank, as home builders now do, and repay in installments.

Eventually, some such law will probably be passed, but meantime there is a real opportunity for friends of the blind to set up a revolving fund, as has been done in Washington, D. C., and make loans to blind stand operators approved



by the properly constituted agency for the blind.

Such an organization would need moderate capital, or should have a membership of people willing to contribute money, as fast as stand projects were approved. With a sizeable membership, and donations of a few dollars from each member for each new project, the finances could be taken care of. Some supervision and accounting would

also be necessary, to take care of payments on loans. After a few years, the organization should have sufficient capital coming back to be self-financing.

Priorities for the blind are a good deal like priorities for business. In both cases, you need a little help in learning what is required, and conforming to the rules.

Friends of blind people have an opportunity to help with their particular problem.

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## HE DISCOVERED LIGHT — FOR THE BLIND

### LOUIS BRAILLE

**I**N ANY sort of discussion of type for the blind, one important thing to bear in mind is that the blind, as well as the sighted, require a type that may be written as well as read. Only by such means can blind students or business men make notes or correspond with each other.

Many types have been developed in the past, which fulfilled only the requirement of reading. One such type is widely used in English-speaking countries today, but it should be considered as a temporary or special type to fill special needs and not for universal use.

In the history of the development of raised type for the blind, every obvious device which might be used as a tactile code was tried. After centuries of effort it was found that a raised dot on paper, used in combination with other dots to form a cipher system, was not only easily read but most easily written. Having determined this, two important problems presented themselves.

The first was the arrangement of dots for each letter or combination of letters.

Many codes were tried, some being based on the principle of frequency by which the most commonly used letters had the fewest number of dots assigned to them, resulting in greater speed in writing.

The second problem was the choice of the total number of dots that might be used and their arrangement. It is this last that was solved by Louis Braille. His contribution was a system based on six dots, each character of which might be wholly felt by the ball of one finger. The earlier experiments of Charles Barbier, a French artillery officer, involving a twelve-point system, served as a useful hint.

This word "Braille" in our dictionary has received very little attention, although to thousands of blind persons in the world it has literally taken blindness out of the word "blind".

It is a French word, spelled b-r-a-i-l-l-e, the English pronunciation of which is *brail*, not *brailey*, as is often heard. Today that word, so little understood even by lexicographers, represents a mighty



influence in the lives of thousands of blind people. Its mention suggests to them a mental picture of only six little dots, arranged in a group resembling a domino six. All the possible combinations of those six dots form 63 distinct signs or characters. They are called *Braille*, in honor of the founder or discoverer, Louis Braille, who designed this system of raised print for the blind that might be written as well as read.

Many there are in the world today who have been knighted, or upon whom honorary degrees have been liberally conferred, whose heroism or contributions for the betterment of the human race do not equal the service rendered by this unsung hero who conquered for himself and others a stubborn, irresistible foe in the form of physical blindness. Some day the world will give to this undaunted hero his rightful place in history, and memorialize him with other scientists for his emancipation of the blind.

Even the work of the late Thomas A. Edison, however grand and glorious, can never mean as much to the blind as the work of their blind benefactor, Louis Braille. The names of Edison and Braille will both go down in history. Both men were inventors of light. Physical darkness was dispelled by Edison, but to Louis Braille, a blind man, fell the more difficult task of dissipating

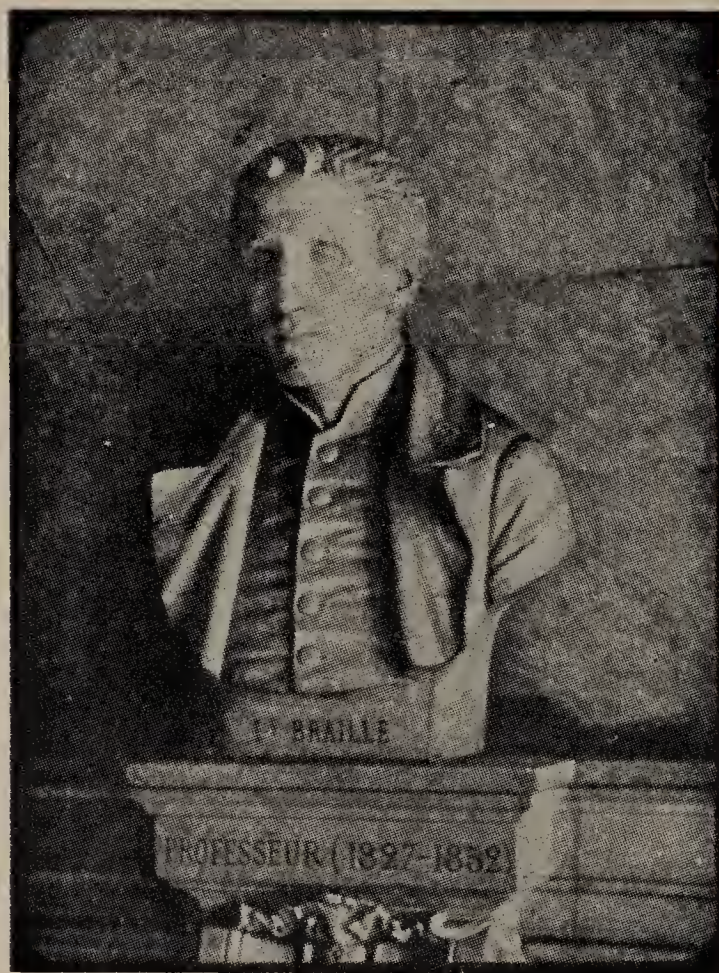
mental darkness for thousands of his fellow-blind.

On the 100th anniversary of this man's remarkable invention, a few editors saw fit to rate him and Gutenberg as benefactors to humanity of the first rank. And on this centennial the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was founded in his memory.

Gutenberg gave the printed word to the world, the value of which is universally recognized. And to Louis Braille belongs the glory of giving to the blind words which they can write — words which they might not otherwise acquire in their vocabulary. His invention can never be truly evaluated.

Today there are hundreds, if not thousands of blind men and women engaged in useful occupations to whom such accomplishments would be impossible without the ability to write Braille on a slate or typewriter especially designed.

Moreover, in many of our high schools and universities today, we find blind students mounting to the top-most rung of the ladder of education aided by Braille's invention, enabling them to take notes in the classroom; while out in the commercial world are blind salesmen, newspaper reporters and others, whose success has been secured largely through the ability to make notations in Braille, very much the same as their sighted contemporar-



LOUIS BRAILLE



ies use the notebook and pencil.

Louis Braille was born near Paris, France, on January 4, 1809, the son of a harness maker. Soon an incident was to occur in this child's life, which though little less than a tragedy, was made a medium by which the blind of the world were to see out of obscurity.

One day when Louis was about three years old, while playing in his father's shop, a sharp instrument, probably a harness maker's awl, accidentally slipped, destroying the sight of one eye. Sympathetic inflammation caused the loss of sight in the other eye, rendering the little fellow totally blind.

At the age of six, the parents sent Louis to the Institution for the Young Blind, founded by Valentin Haüy in Paris, France, where he became a brilliant student. In 1827 Braille was made professor of music and mathematics, seriously handicapped by his inability to compose his music in a form that he could read back to himself, or to make his mathematical notations on paper for ready reference.

Thus, necessity, ever the mother of invention, enabled Louis Braille to give to the world a system of printing for

the blind which is distinctive in at least two respects: First, it may be written as well as read by the blind. Second, it may be used universally for every language that has an alphabet.

Louis Braille, who was never physically strong, died in 1852, at the age of 43. Two years later the system of printing which he designed was officially adopted by France, and later by other European countries.

In 1860, it was brought to the United States by Dr. Simon Pollock, trustee for the Missouri School for the Blind. In 1917 it was officially adopted in America as the standard system of printing for the English-reading blind.

All that is mortal of Louis Braille has long ago crumbled to ashes, but his gentle spirit still hovers over the welfare of the blind who reap the benefits of his unselfish labor, and the generations to come will call him *blessed*.

His work makes practical the statement, "Through the sense of touch to the soul of man," for through the Braille system, read by the sensitive touch of the blind, the lives of thousands, which otherwise might still be in a world of darkness, have been enriched and illuminated.



### *The Little Things That Count*

It is announced that in 1941 the production of safety razor blades in the United States aggregated 2,400,000,000 blades. The average thickness of a razor blade is approximately .005 of an inch; the average width one inch and the average length  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The government's proposal to ration razor

blades for the duration seems on the surface a very little thing. But if all the razor blades consumed last year were stacked one on top of the other they would form a bar of the best steel  $1 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, 189 miles high. Figure it for yourself on the basis that 200 blades stand an inch high.



# BLIND INVENTOR

By CORNELIA BELL

Melvin E. Haslip, totally blind shoe repairman of Lansing, Michigan, has been granted a patent pending for his invention called "Cementapplication". It is a mechanical device which enables a blind man to apply the cement in shoe repair work more efficiently.

In addition to a very successful shop of his own, Mr. Haslip teaches shoe repairing at the Michigan School for the Blind.

"Shoe repairing does not solve the employment problem of the blind, but it does offer an opportunity to a small number of them. The training is excellent for developing the skill of their hands," says Mr. Haslip.

It is interesting to note how skeptical people were when this blind man first embarked upon his chosen career. He had taken a short course in shoe repairing from a blind man in Saginaw, and in the fall of 1923 opened a small shop

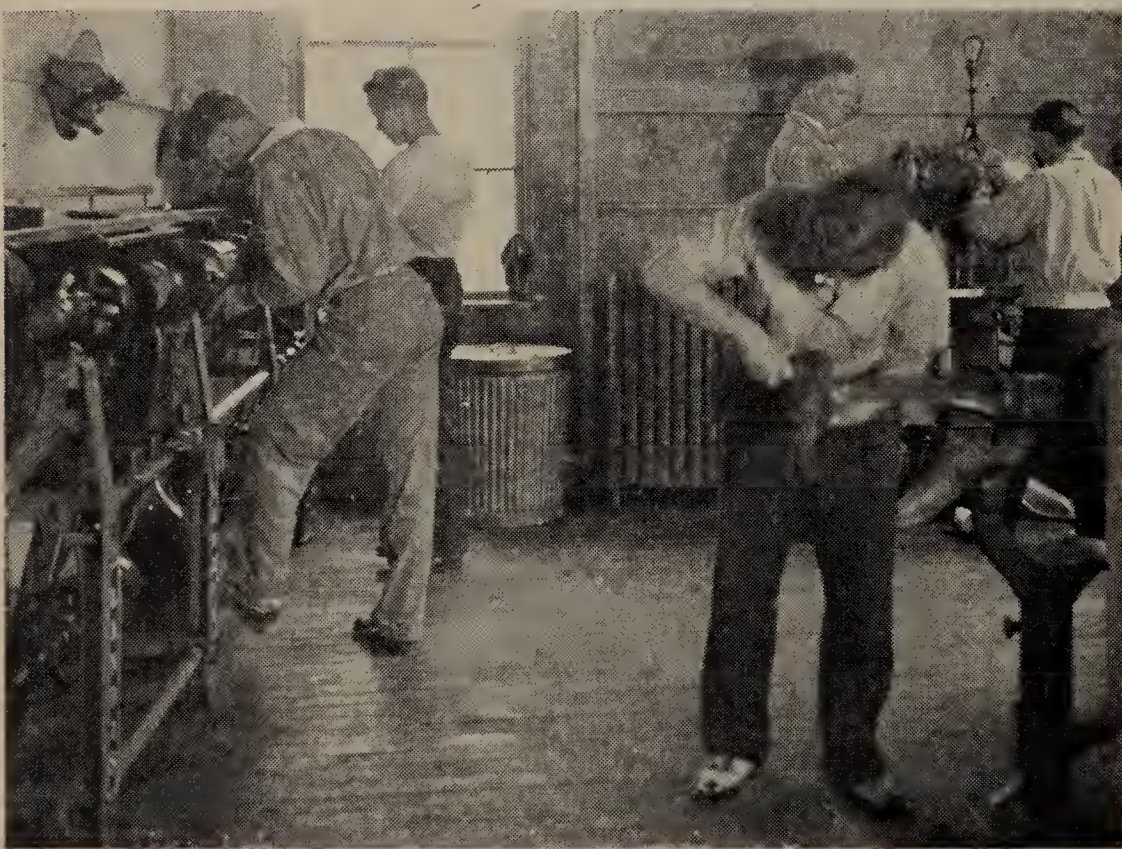
in the rear of his home. He still has the same shop. At that time he used hand machines for the work but soon learned from his customers that the machines were not satisfactory.

When he went out to buy good American-standard machines, the manufacturers did not want to sell their equipment to a blind man. Haslip persisted and finally he found a company that was interested. It wasn't easy sailing, however, for he soon learned that the state sales manager was not so inclined.

In time the sales manager called at Haslip's shop. He was confident a blind man could not operate one of their sole stitchers. Haslip still insisted on a try-out and an appointment was made for the following week in Detroit. He was met at the depot by the sales manager, who said, "You cannot operate one of our stitchers, because I had the boys blindfold me and I cannot operate it at all."

Arriving at the store, Haslip started to work. They became so engrossed in the operation of the machine and the work he could do that they forgot to take time out for lunch. When Haslip left the store at five that afternoon he had the stitcher ordered. He still has the same machine.

Later he took the company's course in stitcher repair which they give their service men. Now, Haslip says, the man who thought it



A scene in the shoe repair workshop at the Michigan School for the Blind, where students are trained for the trade. These boys use the machines with the facility of their contemporaries with sight.



couldn't be done "thinks I can do more with a stitcher than I really can."

In 1924, he took charge of the shoe repair shop at the school for the blind, which was just getting started. The appointment was accepted for six months as a trial, with the understanding that if his efforts were successful he would continue. The equipment was not the best, but a satisfactory beginning was made.

Five years ago the school purchased modern equipment, thus increasing the students' opportunity. From sixteen to twenty-two boys work in the shop every day. Some finish the course in three years, which is the usual time—some in less time, and others do not complete it at all. Several of the boys have shops of their own and one of the graduates is in charge of a county welfare shop.

A few of the boys at the school have learned how to take a stitcher down and repair it. (A stitcher has over 635 parts.)

Melvin Haslip was born in Richmond, Michigan. Later the family moved to Gould City and when Melvin was thirteen years old he lost his sight through an accident. He graduated from the Michigan School for the Blind in 1914 and has since taken enough college work to entitle him to a Smith-Hughes Certificate.

From 1914 to 1917, he sold goods from house to house and then began working in a factory assembling two-wheel trucks on war production. In 1921, he was laid off and went back to canvassing. Then he took up shoe repairing.

The "Cementapplicator" is designed to apply the cement in shoe repairing by a patented device rather than by brush, which is the customary process. The brush method is difficult for a blind person to use.

Since the first model was perfected, several experienced cement men have tried the "Cementapplicator" and all have praised it. They claim it is faster, does a better job and does it more economically.

Two firms are interested in Haslip's patent but, since most of the shoe manufacturers have been prohibited from building shoe machinery for the duration, the prospects for selling it at this time are diminished.

"My primary object in developing this cement dispenser is for the use of the blind, and if I can succeed in perfecting an easier and better way for them to apply the cement, then I shall feel that my time has been well spent."

In this fashion does Melvin Haslip, a successful shoe repair man, contribute to the solution of the employment problem of his fellow-blind.



The true sage is not one who sees, but he who, seeing the farthest, has the deepest love for mankind. He who sees without loving is only straining his eyes in the dark.—Maeterlinck.



## CARE, TRAINING AND AFTERCARE OF WAR BLINDED

Early in 1941, the president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, Col. E. A. Baker, M.C., O.B.E., managing director of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, appointed a committee on the Care, Training and Aftercare of the U. S. War Blind.

The members of this committee are: Chairman Robert B. Irwin, executive director, American Foundation for the Blind, New York; Alfred Allen, executive secretary, Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, Winnetka, Illinois; J. Robert Atkinson, Braille Institute of America; Col. E. A. Baker; Joseph F. Clunk, supervisor, Service for the Blind, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.; Miss Grace Harper, director, Bureau of Services for the Blind, New York State Department of Social Welfare; Francis E. Ierardi, manager, National Braille Press, Boston; Peter J. Salmon, manager, Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Maurice I. Tynan, field agent for the blind, U. S. Office of Education, and L. L. Watts, executive secretary, Virginia Commission for the Blind, Richmond.

The members of this committee, all blind except Mr. Allen and Miss Harper, are outstanding leaders in work for the blind. Mr. Salmon is president of the Association for the current biennium.

Col. Baker was the first Canadian officer to be blinded in World War I, and he was one of the first to enter St. Dunstan's, London, established for the purpose of rehabilitating and training soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Empire blinded in that war. Col. Baker's progressiveness since that time is not only phenomenal but also inspirational

to all who know him. Consequently his experience during his rehabilitation, and in the position he now holds, fully qualifies him to act as a member of this committee.

Mr. Irwin, the chairman, is past-president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, and has had wide experience in the training and education of both the youthful and adult blind and partially blind. Before his association with the American Foundation, he served as instructor in the sight saving classes under the educational system of the State of Ohio.

Mr. Watts past-president of the Association, is as well informed and equipped by experience as any person in this country, with or without sight, engaged in welfare work for the blind.

On July 28, 1941, the committee held its first meeting in New York City. Its action included many recommendations designed to meet the objectives and was reported to the Association at its 19th biennial convention held at Indianapolis where it was accepted unanimously.

Subsequently, a sub-committee composed of Mr. Irwin, Col. Baker, Mr. Watts and Miss Harper held a lengthy interview with Capt. Watson Miller of Mr. Paul V. McNutt's office in Washington. As chairman, Mr. Irwin reported that he had urged consideration of the report of the committee, as drafted at Indianapolis, through Mr. McNutt's office, and Mr. McNutt had said he was recommending to President Roosevelt special consideration for those becoming blind and deaf through combat work.



On September 9, 1942, the committee met again. A full report of this meeting is not yet available, however Sir Ian Frazier, chairman of St. Dunstan's for Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, London, was present.

This information should be convincing that the care, training and after-care of the U. S. War Blinded is in good hands and well organized by those experienced in welfare work for the blind.

This should also indicate that the efforts of well-intentioned persons to organize locally and otherwise, or to hold benefits for the purpose of raising money to assist the war blinded should be discouraged, even if the money so raised were to be turned over to the well-established, reputable agencies for the blind for such purpose. Such well-intentioned efforts often open the door to promoters who have always been ready to capitalize upon the blind, and especially those blinded in the service of their country, through patriotic and sentimental appeals in their behalf.

TO THE PRESS

Editors, staff correspondents, and columnists are not only invited but urged to use freely any portion of the information presented in the editorial, "Care, Training and Aftercare of War Blinded," and the resolution which follows it. Broad coverage of the points stressed in that information by the press, and especially of the organization now well under way by experienced and well-constituted authorities in welfare work for the blind, will go far to stem the tide and undo the wrong already threatening the United States war-blinded.

Resolution

At the meeting of the committee on the Care, Training and Aftercare of the War-Blind, of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, held in New York City September 9, the following timely resolution was unanimously passed:

WHEREAS, Several organizations for the blind are announcing plans for the care and training of war-blinded persons; and

WHEREAS, Some of these agencies are directly or indirectly appealing to the public for financial support for such services; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Committee that the Federal Government working in cooperation with and so far as possible through the instrumentality of existing agencies for the blind, should assume full responsibility for the rehabilitation of war-blinded individuals.

BE IT RESOLVED, That independent appeals for private financial support of services for war-disabled persons in every way are disapproved by the members of this Committee and workers for the blind.

ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRaille INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Braille Slate and Stylus.....	\$1.10
Hill Writing Guide (for longhand writing) ..	.65
Grooved Writing Card	
(for longhand writing).....	.15
Braille Paper, per lb., 9 x 12.....	.20
Coin Holder .....	.60
Playing Cards, Brailled.....	.55, 1.00
Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)....	.15
Christmas Cards (in Braille).....	.15

The following articles can be secured on order:

Braille Dominoes, interlocking .....	1.00
Checkerboard and Men.....	.75
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus	2.00
Hill String Lineguide	
(for longhand writing) .....	2.50



# SOME DON'TS TO DO

## A GUIDE FOR THE SIGHTED

*For Social and Business Contacts with  
the Blind*

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

*Vice-President and Managing Director  
BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.*

1. Don't treat the blind as abnormal human beings, simply because they cannot see physically. Remember that about nine out of every ten blind persons you meet lost their sight in mature years. In any event, they are interested in the things that you like to see, hear, read about, and discuss.

2. Don't talk to a blind person as though he were deaf; the fact that he cannot see is no indication he cannot hear well.

3. Don't address a blind person through his companion or guide, thereby presuming he has a child's mentality.

4. Don't refer to blindness as an affliction; it is only a physical handicap reduced to a 25 per cent minimum by many of the blind.

5. Don't pity a blind person, nor express sympathy for him in his presence.

6. Don't exclaim "wonderful" or "marvelous" merely because a blind person may do many of the normal things such as consult his watch for the correct time; dial the telephone; sign his name in longhand, etc.

7. Don't talk of a "sixth sense" or "providential compensation" and so perpetuate an obstinate delusion. The extraordinary talent is often merely the development of latent mental resources.

8. Don't try to "carry" a blind person when assisting him to cross the street, to enter a vehicle, or to mount the stairs. You need only guide his

hand to the handle or rail; he will do the rest.

9. Don't, when assisting a blind person to a chair, turn him around abruptly, and then push him into it. Simply place his hand on the back or arm of the chair; this gives him its location. That is enough.

10. Don't angle when guiding a blind person across the street; walk straight across, if possible; otherwise you may upset his reckoning and cause him to stumble when approaching the curb.

11. Don't push a blind person ahead of you anywhere. Let him take hold of your arm. The motion of your body informs him what to expect, usually. In narrow passages or aisles, where this rule cannot be practiced, you should walk ahead of the blind person and let him follow.

12. Don't think that a blind guest is an unusual responsibility, needing someone to dress, bib, and feed him.

13. Don't think it abnormal when a blind person asks for the location of electric light switches in the home or office. Often this helps him to "light" the way for others, and quite often he himself prefers a lighted room.

14. Don't ascertain if a blind guest prefers sugar in his tea by addressing his companion. A blind man once said to me, with a good deal of zest, that nothing annoyed him more than to have his hostess ask of his daughter, "Does your father take sugar in his tea?"



15. Don't make unusual revision of conversation to avoid using the word "see" by substituting the word "hear" or "heard." Use the word "blind" without hesitation if you are discussing blindness with persons so handicapped, but don't substitute this topic for the weather.

16. Don't fail to speak, if only a word, on entering a room in which there is a blind person; it announces your presence and helps him to identify you.

17. Don't fail to shake hands when meeting or leaving a blind friend. To him, a cordial handshake substitutes for a friendly smile.

18. Don't waste your time or the blind person's by asking, "Do you know who this is?" or by saying, "Now guess who I am." And, "Now, don't tell me you don't know me!" Unless you are very well acquainted with the person blinded, and unless the surroundings are very quiet, it is better quietly to say, "This is Mr. \_\_\_\_\_," when greeting a blind friend.

19. Don't leave a blind person abruptly after conversing with him in a crowd, or where there is noise that may obstruct his hearing, without quietly advising him that you are leaving. Otherwise, he may find himself in the embarrassing position of talking when no one is listening, thus making himself conspicuous.

20. Don't fail to inform the blind person where the speaker's platform is located at public gatherings when a public address system is used. This will enable him to face the speaker, rather than the nearest amplifier, much to his embarrassment.

21. Don't fail to tell a blind guest who the other guests are, so that he may know of their presence.

22. Don't leave a door ajar in the

home or office where there is a blind person. Always keep it closed or flung wide open, flush against the wall. A half-opened door is the most dangerous obstacle blind people encounter. You, with normal eyesight, who have collided with a half-opened door in the dark, fairly cracking the cranium, can appreciate fully this admonition.

23. Don't leave any unusual object in a passageway or other place where blind people are in the habit of walking.

24. Don't slam shut the door of an automobile wherein is a blind passenger without making sure that his hands are out of the way. His fingers are his stock in trade, and a danger besets him here unless caution is practiced.

25. Don't permit a blind person riding in your car to extend his hand or arm outside the car. I know of one case where a sighted person lost his right arm in an accident on this account; and I know of another case where a blind man would certainly have lost his arm had he not unknowingly moved it inside the car just before a crash.

26. Don't force the approaching blind pedestrian to give you the right-of-way. Remember, every time you cause a blind person to vary from his general course, to get out of your way, you cause him to lose his bearing. Figuratively, this sets him on the high seas without a compass.

27. Don't say "right" when you mean "left" while steering a blind pedestrian. My observation is that ninety per cent of the people make this blunder. It could cause loss of life or a serious accident. On one occasion, it caused me to plunge headlong into a ditch in the streets of El Centro, California, years ago. In this case, my informant was standing on a street corner facing me as I started across the

(Continued to Page 20)



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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A veteran of five terms in the Ohio Legislature, George J. Harter, 58, became Akron's first blind mayor early this year. His constant companion and aide since his election to the Legislature is his wife, Sophia. He relies heavily on her when meeting delegations and attending conferences. His election to the mayoralty was a surprise victory when, with the support of organized labor and most of the city's Democratic machine, he rolled up a 5,483 plurality over the incumbent Republican.



Ralph Santorelli, blind high school boy of Brewster, New York, is doing his bit as an air raid warden as a result of a letter written to the mayor. He pointed out that "Lights mean nothing to us and when the street lights are extinguished, we would be able to lead the people to shelter."



Landing in the best-seller class almost immediately upon publication, "The World at My Finger Tips," by Karsten Ohnstad [Bobbs-Merrill], tells the story of a Minnesota youth, blind since he was 16. A spirited, good-natured, and wise story, it should convince employers that there are many things the blind can do as well, and sometimes better, as those who see.



The success of Mike Starincak, 23, who works for Remington Arms Co., in the manufacture of munitions, gained international publicity late in May with

an Associated Press dispatch based on a story in the Bridgeport Post. After three days, careful inspection of his work showed that he had passed only one bad shell. He was placed on regular production at that time, his work receiving only the usual check of a specified number of shells from each box, the same as experienced operators. A month later a check was made, showing that he consistently maintained the maximum output. The supervisor of industrial relations says, "He is, I think, the happiest person I ever saw, and his presence here is an inspiration to all that come in contact with him. The remarkable thing about him is that the attention he has received has in no way gone to his head. He takes great pride in his job, of course, and the amount of his earnings is a constant source of amazement to him; but when he gets through telling you how pleased he is about the whole thing he is more inclined to talk about the Brooklyn Dodgers or the Yankees than about himself." Starincak has been blind since birth, and never had a job before.



The victory gardener, thoroughly versed on the stubbornness and lack of cooperation on the part of various varieties of summer vegetables may find inspiration in the experience of Burr Willard, San Bernardino, California. Mr. Willard has one of the most successful garden projects in that community, where the tomatoes grow large, luscious and juicy and the corn would make an



Iowa farmer wonder, "How come?" King, Mr. Willard's guide dog, has sensed the idea of the garden and leads his master between the rows of beans, carrots, beets, corn and other vegetables, while the blind man's sensitive fingers keep it in apple-pie order.

✦

More and more blind people are taking their places in industry, either in defense plants or in non-war production, thereby relieving a seeing person for a war job. In San Diego, California, Maxine Sautter has been employed as a switchboard operator and takes dictation in Braille. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oregon and has been awarded a teacher's certificate.

✦

Also from San Diego comes word that a blind piano tuner appealed to his tire rationing board for tires so that he could continue his work of tuning pianos in barracks throughout the southern part of the State. It was ruled that he was aiding directly the war effort, and he got two retreads.

✦

Charles E. McCoy has been a resident at the Union Printers Home at Colorado Springs since 1920. He learned to use a typewriter in order to keep up his

correspondence with friends and relatives; and mastered Braille in order to continue his reading. He has become so proficient in these lines that he has served as state teacher as well as helping many privately. He is intensely interested in educational subjects but has had considerable success with hand-

craft, making belts and dog leashes of leather and knitting ladies' hand bags. These have been sold through a friend and he has been able to make a little profit to assist him in getting about the State to help others.

✦

From Memphis, Tennessee, comes the story of Edgar Sing, 23-year-old high school senior. He lost his sight at the age of seven and was compelled to leave school at the second grade. During

the ten years he was bedridden he did not have an instructor, but was able to return to school in the ninth grade. The intervening years were covered by reading Braille and listening to the radio. Since his return to school he has made straight "A's" and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is vice-president of his class, president of the Physics, Spanish, English, and World Affairs Clubs, chaplain of his fraternity, represents his room on a Red Cross committee, plays the violin in the orchestra and sings in the glee club.

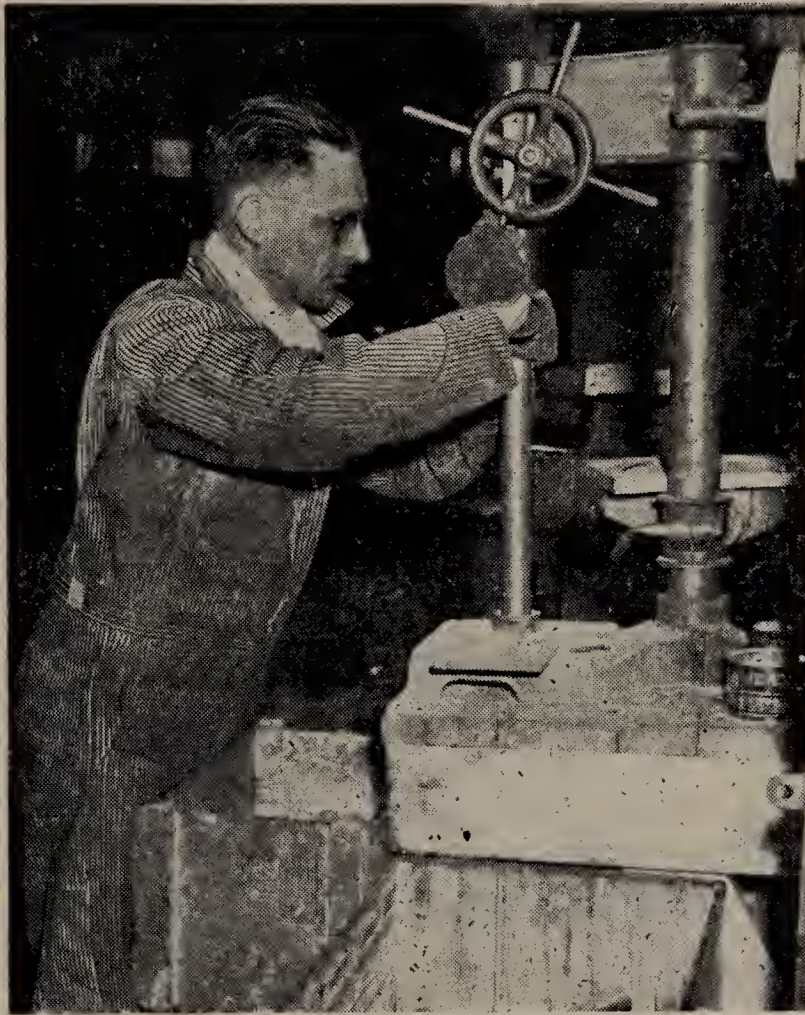


Photo Courtesy Seattle Times

The nimble fingers of Don Nicholson assemble electric water heater element tubes in a steel construction company in Seattle, Washington. Nicholson is also a licensed amateur radio operator.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
MARIANNE GARVER, Associate Editor

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Volume XV      October, 1942      Number 1

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## "... A Right Thing" ...

On September 30, 1942, Braille Institute of America, Inc., closed its twenty-third year of welfare service to the blind of California and the Nation, while its literary service has been extended to the English-reading blind of many nations.

During these twenty-three years, several of which were fraught with the most chaotic, economic depression the world has ever experienced, climaxed by World War II, the Institute has realized steady progress. Its welfare service to the blind has grown and expanded, step by step. And its income, which is dependent almost entirely on voluntary support of the public, in the absence of any government aid or permanent endowments, has continued commensurate with the Institute's needs.

According to a certified audit of its books for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942, the Braille Institute is financially stronger than at any time in its existence. This audit shows also that the Institute has increased its service to the blind substantially beyond that of any single year in its entire history.

Carlyle writes, "Give a thing time; if it succeeds, it is a right thing."

If Carlyle is right, and the logic of

events proves that he is, an examination of the Braille Institute's record of service for twenty-three years will show ample proof of its efficiency, and furnish full justification for its founding and existence.

Such examination also will show beyond cavil that the Braille Institute is deserving of substantial cash contributions and permanent endowments in the form of bequests and insurance benefits.



## Burr McIntosh

A devoted and tireless worker for the welfare of the blind, handicapped and shut-ins, Burr McIntosh died April 30, 1942. Beloved by hosts of friends, radio's "Cheerful Philosopher" was 79 years old. A member of the Braille Institute's advisory board, Mr. McIntosh also was a moving spirit in the Cheery Chase Club following the death of its founder, George Chase.



## Happy Birthday

Celebrating its twenty-third birthday anniversary September 30, 1942, members of the board of trustees, staff members and friends were entertained at The Los Angeles Breakfast Club when J. Robert Atkinson, founder and managing director, was one of the hosts.

Miss Genevieve Wiley, talented blind mezzo-soprano of Pasadena, was the featured vocalist and her numbers pleased those present at the clubhouse, as well as the thousands who listened to the program over radio station KFWB.

The principal speaker for the occasion was Dr. Lloyd C. Douglas, distinguished clergyman, author and speaker. A member of the Institute's advisory board, Dr. Douglas captioned his remarks "Blackout Diversions."



Following Dr. Douglas's talk, on behalf of The Los Angeles Breakfast Club, Dr. Wm. A. Pettit, consulting state ophthalmologist, as chairman for the morning, presented the Club's Achievement Award to Mr. Atkinson, as a tribute to his twenty-three years in the field of welfare work for the blind.

Among those introduced were: Hon. Frank C. Collier, Lloyd C. Douglas, Col. Rupert Hughes, Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, Robert A. Odell, A. L. Sonderegger, J. W. Tapley, Herman O. Meyer, Dr. L. C. Frost, A. C. Pesterre, C. L. Whitehead, James H. Collins, Newell Steward and Floyd K. Brown.



### *Pig Bankers*

Many individuals and firms continue to contribute to the welfare activities of the blind by keeping one of the pig banks distributed by the Institute. These gay and colorful little porkers are more than doing their stint in behalf of those who do not see.

Among the firms that are consistent pig bankers may be mentioned Fred Harvey Houses at the Union Station, Los Angeles, and the Santa Fe Bus Station, Hollywood, merchandise office Barker Bros., Los Angeles; and the charity box at Don the Beachcomber's, Hollywood, is also a healthy source of revenue.

Under the slogan, "a penny a day drives darkness away," these pig banks will hold at least 365 pennies. They are sent to Light readers on request. At the end of a year, the pig banker is reminded that "slaughtering time" approaches. The proceeds may then be sent to the Braille Institute and this help mounts up as more and more pig banks are distributed.

### *Remember*

Those who wish to assist the physically blind socially and economically again are urged to remember:

1. The Braille Institute of America is the only agency, public or private, west of the Mississippi River adequately equipped and efficiently organized to cope intelligently with the various problems associated with rehabilitation of the adult blind.

2. The Braille Institute is not affiliated *officially* with any agency purportedly engaged in welfare service for the blind anywhere, but it cooperates with all reputable agencies engaged in this field of endeavor.

3. The Braille Institute has no branch offices. Its only address is 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles.

4. The Braille Institute's activities for the blind do not duplicate the services rendered by any other agency west of the Mississippi River.

5. Nearly every dollar contributed to the Braille Institute of America goes into direct welfare service of some kind, its administrative expense being substantially underwritten by pledges and contributions given for the purpose.

6. Contributions to the Braille Institute help the adult blind in every walk of life, irrespective of race, color or creed.

7. While voluntary contributions and memberships are the source of the Braille Institute's support, it does not approve of tag days, the sale of flowers, lead pencils, etc., believing that such street demonstrations to raise funds actually do the blind more harm than good.

8. The Braille Institute employs no solicitors, no house to house canvassers for any purpose, to sell merchandise or take contributions.



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## ..a] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD ]c..

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*New York Association for the Blind*, New York, N. Y. A beautiful navy blue afghan, ten by twelve feet in size, with a large Red Cross in the center, was knitted square by square by sixteen blind women of the Lighthouse for the Red Cross Army Base Hospital in Iceland. The yarn was furnished by a volunteer worker and the Lighthouse teachers supervised the work. Two of the workers, Miss Florence Quinn and Mrs. Eva Bennett, presented the afghan to the North Atlantic headquarters of the National American Red Cross. Making the presentation, Miss Quinn said: "We blind women are happy to know that our joint effort in making the afghan will warm and cheer the American boys in Iceland who certainly are doing their part to lead us to Victory."

\* \* \*

*Utah State Board of Examiners*, Salt Lake City. The employment of eight Braille and handicraft instructors was continued until July 15, when the transfer of \$1,250 was made from the state operating account to the State School for the Adult Blind. The instructors, formerly paid by the WPA, teach the blind in their homes.

\* \* \*

*Northern Counties Institute for the Blind*, Inverness, Scotland. This institution reports an order for a wicker work coffin, similar to those used several thousands of years ago in Egypt and other parts of the world. Admitting the "rather startling character of the order," the superintendent was determined to carry it out and work was started without delay.

*U. S. Civil Service Commission*, Washington, D. C. Recently the commission sent out a request to all Federal agencies to use trained blind people as assistant clerk stenographers. Five are already employed and ten more are available in Washington. The employed include three girls—with WPA, Civil Service, and the Office of Education. Two men are employed—at the American Red Cross and the Office of Scientific Research and Development. These blind men and women take dictation in Braille, make recordings on a dictating machine, and type by the touch system from the recordings. The commission and the agencies for whom they are employed report that they are accurate and point out that they are not distracted by the sights around them.

\* \* \*

*Independent Vending Machine Operators*, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. An organization to assist blind operators of vending machines furnishes advice and has arranged loans for needed capital. Members of the association are located throughout the State. Two of the members operate a profitable string of machines that sell confections and cigarettes; four operate businesses in the \$5,000 a year class, and several others are approaching that figure. At the present time, the organization is the only one of its kind in the United States, but hopes to have others formed in other states, having received inquiries from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. The operators take pride in the smooth manner in which the association functions both in a humanitarian way and as a hard-headed



business group which bargains collectively with dealers for better rates and discounts for its members.

\* \* \*

*Victorian Association of Braille Writers, South Yarra, Australia.* This association operates a free lending library for the blind and the 48th annual report, for the year ending March 31, 1942, has been received. The report includes an addendum by the president in which the management "desires once more to place on record its appreciation of the loyal service and unflagging interest of the secretary and librarian, Miss Minnie H. Crabb. The passing of the years brings no diminution of the courtesy and kindness always shown by her towards our blind readers and friends, all of whom regard her with real affection. The members of the staff, too, cooperate with her in the happiest manner, and their sympathetic attention to their duties is most gratefully acknowledged."

\* \* \*

*The Society for the Relief of the Destitute Blind of the City of New York and Its Vicinity.* This Society concluded its seventy-fourth year September 30, its object being "to provide a home for indigent and friendless blind persons of both sexes, irrespective of religious denominations, where they may enjoy reasonable comforts and have facilities for earning their livelihood."

\* \* \*

*Washington Society for the Blind, Washington, D. C.* This Society furnishes agency control for 44 vending stands in the District of Columbia, with 49 blind workers employed in stand operation. The Society has an office staff of ten people, all of whom are sighted. Sales at stands under the supervision of the Society are five times

what they were a year ago. The Society makes it a point to have its vending stands attractive, carrying nothing but high grade merchandise. A staff of four supervisors keeps in touch to see that the stands are operated in accordance with the highest standards. Prospective operators are given a course of training in stand operation and only those measuring up to certain outlined qualifications are considered.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., Los Angeles, California

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of.....(or a description of any property, real or personal).

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of....., 19.....

(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will dated.....in the presence her testatrix (Date of Will)

of us, both present at the same time, who at his request and in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

....., residing at.....

....., residing at.....



# UNITED PRINTING COMPANY

*Printers*

430 Boyd Street  
MICHIGAN 1873      Los Angeles

## Billion Dollar Filler

How much is a billion dollars? If you began life at the year 1 A.D., with a billion dollars, you could have lost one thousand dollars a day from that time to this and could still lose one thousand dollars a day for about 800 years before you would be broke.



Pig bankers enjoy saving a penny a day to help "drive darkness away" when one of these gay little porkers is around as a reminder. A card addressed to the Braille Institute will bring one along in the next mail. They will save at least 365 pennies—\$3.65 a year—for the blind.

## SOME DON'TS TO DO

(Continued from Page 13)

street. Observing that I was angling too far to my right towards the intersection where the street was torn up, he shouted, "To the right!" Naturally, I kept veering to my right, all the time heading straight for the ditch until I landed at the bottom of it. He really meant for me to steer to my left, which was to *his* right as he faced me.

28. Don't fail to offer assistance to a blind pedestrian who is crossing the street or boarding a trolley. It may be that your assistance sometime has been rejected or even resented by a blind person who fancied he did not need your help. If so, remember many others do need it and will give thanks.

---

What we see depends mainly on what we look for.—John Lubbock.

*Protect your insurable  
interests*

WITH

*Adequate insurance  
protection*



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609 SOUTH GRAND AVE.

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*Provident Mutual Life Insurance  
Company of Philadelphia*

**JOHN M. G. MARBLE COMPANY**

*"Even a blind man can see the  
value of insurance"*



# HISTORY

THE Braille Institute of America, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the nation's blind. Chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille System, and with its headquarters in Los Angeles, it stands on the Pacific Coast as a memorial to that blind benefactor, Louis Braille, whose ingenuity made truly practical the publication of literature of all kinds in raised print for the blind.

The origin of the Braille Institute dates back to 1919, when an unincorporated, philanthropic institution known as "Universal Braille Press," devoted exclusively to the literary welfare of the blind through the printing of good literature of all kinds in Braille, was established in Los Angeles, California.

Its founding by J. Robert Atkinson was made possible through the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear of Brookline, Massachusetts, who on September 13, 1919, pledged a sum of \$25,000 for the purpose, payable \$5,000 a year. The pledge was made on the condition that Mr. Atkinson would assume full responsibility for the establishment and management of such an institution; and in order that he might devote his entire time to the project, the gift included a salary stipulation for the five years. All the conditions of this benevolent contract were faithfully fulfilled.

Between the years 1912 and 1919, Mr. Atkinson had demonstrated his fitness to establish a printing plant for the blind by transcribing into Braille by hand a unique library of scientific work, consisting of more than 960,000 words, bound in 16 large Braille volumes, prepared for his own use. It was this accomplishment that inspired

Mr. and Mrs. Longyear spontaneously to offer financial assistance.

Soon the benevolence of this newly founded publishing plant was felt by the blind of the nation and to some extent the literary service rendered by it benefited many of the English-reading blind of other nations. Gradually, the demands for social and economic welfare service brought the conviction that an institution founded on broader principles was the need, and to accomplish this the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered on September 30, 1929.

Governed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, and established to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, the Braille Institute ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

Since September 1919, therefore, the Braille Institute and the forces which gave rise to its incorporation have been rendering social and economic welfare service to the adult blind in California and the nation to the extent funds permitted; and its literary service has enriched the English-reading blind of the world.

In recognition of this, the work of the Braille Institute was given generous space by Rockwell D. Hunt, A.M., Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School, University of Southern California, in his elaborate work, "California and Californians," published in 1932. Perhaps more gratifying still is the fact that the Braille Institute of America, Inc., has merited recognition as a national agency in work for the blind by the editors of the Social Work Year Book of the Russell Sage Foundation.



# OPPORTUNITY...

The welfare activities of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as set forth on the following page, are broad enough to meet the social and economic needs of the blind and partially blind in every walk of life.

They are maintained to the extent funds make possible without respect to race, color or creed.

With no assistance from the community chest of Los Angeles, with no governmental aid, State or Federal, and with limited endowments to date, the Institute must look to voluntary contributions of the public, and to its membership dues, for the maintenance of these activities.

The opportunity to help the blind, where help is most needed, administered by an institution, efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the problems of the physically blind, is always available through the activities of the Braille Institute.

Yearly contributions of monthly pledges, large or small, or an application for any one of the memberships listed on the following page, will help more than may be imagined.

*In addition, the charitably inclined are assured that their benevolence will help the blind in future years by naming the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as a beneficiary in wills or insurance policies.*

.....

Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to avail myself of the opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$.....  
to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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Vol. XV, No. 2

January, 1943



## ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pursuant to call, the members of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., met in annual session November 9, 1942, in the office of the corporation, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, for the purpose of reviewing the activities for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942, and to elect a Board of Trustees for the ensuing year.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Robert A. Odell, there being 104 members present in person and by proxy.

The election of a Board of Trustees resulted as follows: Messrs. J. Robert Atkinson, Herman O. Meyer, Robert A. Odell, Arthur C. Pesterre, Arthur L. Sonderegger, John W. Tapley, Cecil L. Whitehead and Dr. Lowell C. Frost. All these were incumbents.

A report of the Board of Trustees was read, accepted and ordered published for distribution to the members as follows:

On September 30, last, another milestone, the twenty-third, was passed in the Braille Institute's welfare service to the Nation's blind. While the progress through these twenty-three years has not been phenomenal in any sense of the word, yet despite chaotic world conditions prevailing through at least the last twelve years of operation, steady progress has been realized.

Not one retrogressive step has been necessary and in various ways our welfare activities have been expanded to benefit an increasing number of blind persons looking to us for service of many kinds.

### TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Seven trustee meetings were held during the year and were well attended. These meetings were generally held at the office of the president in downtown Los Angeles.

### NEW MEMBERS

During the year twenty-six new members were elected to membership.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

An audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942, made by Floyd K. Brown, certified public accountant, setting forth receipts and expenditures in detail, is on file in the office of the corporation for examination by any member.

According to this audit the total receipts for the year from all sources aggregated \$70,977.21, showing a net increase of \$4,396.75 over the previous year.

The expenditures for the year aggregated \$60,618.74, covering the cost of the following: home teaching, \$2,283.67; free lending library, \$9,043.25; literature published and distributed, \$41,512.70; business guidance, \$1,268.39; social welfare, \$6,510.73, leaving a net income of \$10,358.47, disposed of as follows: net increase in equipment for use of the Institute, \$3,223.70; development of the Braille writer, \$302.54; payments on long term notes, \$2,100; retained as net increase of working capital, \$4,732.23.

## MACHINERY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

It seems well to report briefly on this although there is little to say by way of progress. Ever since our former superintendent, Major A. T. Hunt, was called to the service it has been necessary for the engineer to give more and more of his time to general supervision of the factory. This has slowed down all machinery construction in process, sometimes to the extent of total stagnation.

It is, as you likely realize, an utter impossibility to employ machinists and skilled workmen these days; or if such employment were possible it would hardly be practical for us to pay the wages such employees are drawing in defense work. We are, in fact, fortu-

nate that our engineer has not been tempted to make a bid for the higher wages. There is no doubt but what he could get all the work he wanted at 75 per cent increase above what we pay, but he is content to stay with us, he says, because of future prospects.

As a matter of fact, in this connection we are fortunate that for the most part all members of our administrative staff are happy and satisfied to be affiliated with a humanitarian work such as ours, where they feel there is compensation to be enjoyed wholly apart from monetary standards. At the present time this is decidedly to our advantage.

We are, however, patient with these delays on mechanical construction, glad to give priority to Uncle Sam in all his endeavors to win this war. We take the same attitude with respect to employees we have lost and may still lose in the draft. We are proud of our service flag with its four stars, which may be seen in our front window.

In view of the many unavoidable delays experienced in the completion of important mechanical projects under construction, and in view of the funds expended to date on these projects, your trustees feel that our members and contributors are entitled to the following detailed information as to the cost and status of the following projects:

## MOON STEREOTYPING MACHINE

To date we have expended on this machine \$133.30 for material; \$1,013.75 for labor and overhead, or a total of \$1,147.05. Our engineer estimates that it will take approximately two months, or 320 working hours, to complete the machine, ample funds for which are now in reserve, when the labor situation and time will permit. Adequate



material for completion of the work is on hand, which is quite an item in these days of priorities. There are 47 pairs of Moon type which will have to be engraved, which will cost \$160.

GALLEY UNIVERSAL PRESS  
FOR MOON PRINTING

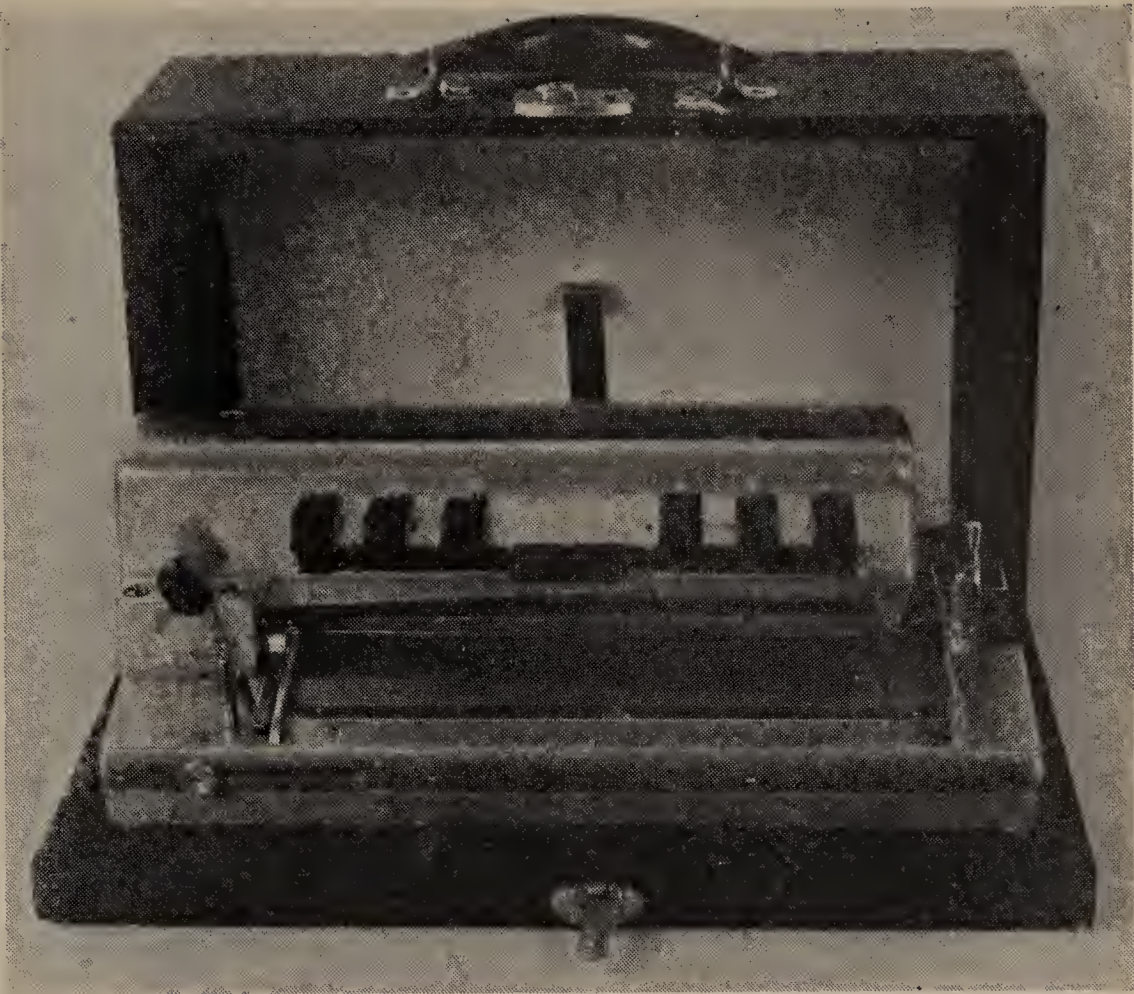
The original cost of this press, second-hand, with 3-horsepower motor, was \$429. Since then we have expended in labor and material \$103.74, making a total cost to date of \$632.74. Only 50 working hours are required to finish this press in first-class condition, our engineer advises. When it is completed we will have a durable, first-class press, the life of which should be at least ten years, or double.

PORTABLE BRAILLE WRITER

From inception to September 30, 1942, this project has cost us:

Experimental and Research incidental to engineering and blueprints .....	\$ 4,261.65
Patterns and castings .....	475.31
Outside labor, dies and jigs .....	4,597.86
Material .....	618.91
Labor and overhead in Braille Institute machine shop .....	3,151.61
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$13,105.34</b>
Written off for experimental and research .....	4,261.65
<b>Net Cost .....</b>	<b>\$ 8,845.89</b>

According to a conservative estimate by the Braille Institute's engineer and



Portable Braille Writer

by the owner of the shop where the dies and jigs were made, these dies and jigs are worth about \$15,000 in present day values.

In the above cost there are finished parts for 100 machines and aluminum on hand for castings for that number of machines.

When foundry facilities are available for the casting of aluminum parts, now uncertain, and when mechanical skill can be employed, now equally uncertain, these 100 writers can be completed and ready for market within ninety days at the most.

BRAILLE INSTITUTE LIBRARY

Problems in connection with the operation of the library are growing more and more acute, chiefly because of limited space. Several years ago space at the Institute's headquarters was wholly inadequate for this activity with the result that a building was rented down the street about a half block where the library is still located. Within six months that building will no



longer serve the purpose. Therefore, in the absence of other buildings in the neighborhood suitable, the situation is not very encouraging at the present time.

#### BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

One of the major activities of the Braille Institute is the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, Grade One and a Half. This activity was undertaken by the Institute December 1, 1937, when the Braille Bible Society was merged with the Braille Institute.

The distribution of the Bible was started in 1920. Since then, until September 30, 1942, 15,472 volumes have been distributed to Braille readers throughout the English-reading world and there is still a great demand for the Scriptures in Braille.

There is now a need for new plates for the printing of the Bible, in 21 volumes. The estimated cost of these plates is \$4,500.

#### GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

During the year we benefited from several substantial bequests, including the estates of Emma A. Bailey, Fannie E. Rotier, Charles J. Chisam, Sada Tracy Card and Elizabeth Bradford, under the James B. and Jane R. Bradford Endowment.

#### RESIDENTIAL HOME AND INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOP

As has been announced for several years previously, there is a great need in Southern California for the establishment and maintenance of a residential home for the homeless and destitute blind as a separate unit of the Braille Institute's welfare activities. The social welfare department has many calls for the blind seeking board and room at prices they can afford to pay.

#### WORKSHOP AND SALES ROOM

There is also a great need for giving the blind of California added opportunity in the handicraft arts, for which many of them are especially fitted. Under the direction of the Department of Institutions the State of California operates three industrial workshops for the blind, one in Oakland, one in Los Angeles and one in San Diego; however, there are many blind persons in the immediate vicinity who wish instruction in the handicraft arts. While the State of California furnishes such free instruction, there is yet a great demand not met.

In recognition of these needs the trustees have as their objective the establishment and maintenance of a residential home and industrial workshop for the blind patterned after similar institutions which have been established successfully in the East, when ample funds for the purpose are available.

#### BUILDING NEEDED

Nor do we wish to conclude this report without again calling to the attention of the members the urgent need for a new building to house the expanding activities of the Institute. For the past several years this need has been emphasized and it is greater now than ever before.

It would be desirable to have the library under the same roof with the other activities; to have a recreation hall, a swimming pool, gymnasium, public auditorium, classrooms and additional administrative offices.

#### CONCLUSION

Your Board of Trustees feel very grateful to all members, contributors and friends for the generous financial and moral support which has made it possible for the Braille Institute to ex-



# "JUST A MINOR HANDICAP"

By VIRGINIA BLANCK

"It is the hope of every sightless person to live a normal life, independent and free from pity." Carl Michael, the young blind man who spoke these words before the Lions Club of Mason City, Iowa, was well on the way toward realizing this hope.

Carl had been born blind near a small Iowa town less than a quarter of a century before. He attended the Iowa School for the Blind at Vinton and after graduation was sent by the Iowa State Board of Education to the Kellberg Institute in Chicago.

There he had a thorough course in Swedish massage, physiotherapy and hydrotherapy.

But like many of his sighted as well as his sightless friends, Carl found that education was not enough.

Lacking money to set up an office for himself, Carl tried writing state institutions, hospitals, Y. M. C. A.'s, employment agencies, etc. There was not a doubt in his mind that he could succeed if given the chance. As he wrote in his application letters, "I feel that blindness is just a minor handicap."

But the public was reluctant to believe that a boy only twenty-six years old, handicapped by blindness, youth and inexperience could do what Carl claimed to be able to do. The

answers to his letters of application were always kind—but in the negative.

Finally, in the fall of 1939, after months of persistent effort, the Y.M.C.A. at Mason City decided to give him a chance. They were planning to open a health department and wanted a masseur.

In spite of the things on the debit side of Carl's ledger, the Y officials were public spirited enough to have a vision of what he could accomplish. They gave Carl his chance.

There was still the question of equipment to be considered. The Iowa Com-

*Continued on Page 22*



Carl Michael and his constant companion, Andy, German Boxer Seeing Eye Dog.



# U. S. COMMITTEE ON THE WAR BLIND

In *Light* for October, 1942, we explained how a competent committee of experienced blind men and women for the care, training and after-care of all persons blinded directly or indirectly as a result of this present war, has been appointed by the American Association of Workers for the Blind. It was further explained there that negotiations by this committee, known as "The United States Committee on the War Blind," were already under way with the office of Paul G. McNutt.

This committee has prepared an exhaustive program in the form of tentative recommendations for the consideration of the Veterans' Administration in making its plans for the rehabilitation of war-blinded men and women of the armed forces. It is the intent of the committee to outline a flexible program so that expansion to meet the needs as they arise will be possible.

The committee realizes clearly the importance of immediate action in meeting the needs of the men and women who unfortunately will lose their sight in the present conflict. The program planned also includes industrial workers and civilians who may be blinded indirectly as the result of this war.

Cooperating in full accord with this committee are the three veterans' organizations—the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. At the 24th Annual National Convention of the American Legion, held in Kansas City, Missouri, September 19-21, 1942, a resolution was approved to support this committee in whatever plans they might recommend to the proper Federal agency with the administration of

any program for the war-blinded veterans.

Since the October *Light* went to press, two new members of outstanding rank and qualifications have been added to the committee. These are Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, National Chaplain of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dr. J. Francis Smith, Osteopathic Physician of Philadelphia, Pa.

In view of this omission, we present here the names of the committee in full, as it is now constituted:

Chairman Robert B. Irwin, executive director, American Foundation for the Blind, New York; Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, national chaplain of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cincinnati, Ohio; Alfred Allen, secretary-general of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, executive secretary, Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, Winnetka, Illinois; J. Robert Atkinson, vice-president and managing director, the Braille Institute of America, Inc.; Col. E. A. Baker, managing director, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, Canada; Joseph F. Clunk, supervisor, Service for the Blind, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C.; Miss Grace Harper, director, Bureau of Services for the Blind, New York State Department of Social Welfare; Francis E. Ierardi, manager, National Braille Press, Boston; Peter J. Salmon, president of American Association of Workers for the Blind, and manager, Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dr. J. Francis Smith, Philadelphia, Pa.; Maurice I. Tynan, field agent for the blind, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. and L. L. Watts, executive secre-

*Continued on Page 21*



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*National Institute of the Blind*, London, England.—Two residents lost their lives and four received injuries when the Institute's Convalescent and Holiday Home on the South Coast was recently damaged by the falling of a bomb. Structural damage was not great aside from the destruction of the east wing where the bomb struck, but inside walls and ceilings were badly shaken.

Also, from the Institute comes the news that the London County Council's Committee on the Welfare of the Blind has investigated current rates of domiciliary assistance payable to needy blind persons in respect for their own needs and the needs of their sighted dependents and, in view of the trend in economic conditions since the last adjustment was made, has decided that the rates should be increased. It has also been determined that an increase should be made in the minimum wage of approved blind workshop employees.

\* \* \*

*The Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind*, Philadelphia, Pa.—Supplying the urgent need for a center of activities for the 3,000 blind men and women of Philadelphia, an organization named "The Lighthouse of the Blind" opened its doors December 19th. Through the generosity of Harold B. Mulligan, a place for social activities has been provided and furnished in every detail. Close by are the offices with space for the Braille Press which has been loaned by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross. On Sunday, December 13th, a series of

radio program was inaugurated by the Lighthouse, directed by Zella Drake Harper, who has worked tirelessly in behalf of the Lighthouse.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's for Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London, England.—At a special service at Church Stretton, on November 7th, 1942, the Rev. Andrew Nugee received a license enabling him to undertake his work as chaplain of St. Dunstan's. In a simple but moving ceremony, Sir Ian Fraser presented the Rev. Nugee to the Bishop of Hereford, who handed the license to the new chaplain, reading to him the oath to King and Bishop. The new chaplain is a St. Dunstaner himself and that, together with his fluent reading of the Lessons in Braille and familiarity with local needs, carries its appeal to all at Church Stretton.

\* \* \*

*The New York Association for the Blind*, New York City.—This association reports forty-two blind men and women employed as factory workers in and around New York. Eleven blind men and two women are working in war plants. In a mica plant two girls perform the delicate operation of splitting mica which is used as insulation for airplanes. Three men are working at finger gauging. In a radio plant, filling government orders, two other blind men are working at a foot press and at cutting copper bands for radio resistors. And at the Rome Air Depot, it is reported that several blind persons have been employed at film loading of aircraft cameras.



*Pennsylvania Association for the Blind*, Pittsburgh, Pa. — The Psychological Department at the Overbrook School has begun an extensive testing program, including verbal, performance, manipulatory, personality, vocational and intelligence tests for the blind. Because there has been little work done previously in some of these fields heretofore, standards must be set up before results may be established. Data from other schools for the blind will be solicited in order to validate the norms. Also, from this association comes the word that efforts are being made to interest the students of the various branches of the Association in beneficial recreation. A class in Morse Code has been established, a chorus organized, games of bingo and ping pong taught. These are in addition to the usual cards, checkers, dancing, singing, swimming and hiking which are now used extensively in the social activities.

\* \* \*

*The Industrial Home for the Blind*, Brooklyn, N. Y. — The new factory building, modern in every detail, which has recently been erected at the Home, is the anonymous gift of a generous donor. The products manufactured, including brushes, mops and brooms, are vitally needed by the Army, Navy and Maritime Commission and although production was good in the old building, the output is now multiplied by the improved working conditions brought about by the modern conveniences of the new building.

\* \* \*

*Lockheed Aircraft Corporation*, Burbank, California. Mr. C. L. Pelton, superintendent of fabrication, reports that his company has in its employ over 100 employees visually handicapped, of

which 13 or 14 are totally blind individuals, the balance being partially sighted. Mr. Pelton says, "The character of the work covers a wide field of detail assembly, electrical sub-assembly, the feeding of parts into burring rolls, masking of parts for the paint shop, turning parts on paint conveyor belt, filing, burring, scribing around templates, center punching, part numbering with rubber and steel stamps and the operation of Roovers metal tagging machines."

He adds, "Totally blind and partially sighted individuals are not working on power machines except where the safeguards are so complete that a fully sighted person could not deliberately injure himself in the operation of the equipment."

Mr. Pelton is high in his praise of these visually handicapped workers, saying, "The quality and quantity of work performed by these men and women equals and excels that of normally sighted individuals in every case."

He stresses the fact, however, that no work has been provided specially for the blind at Lockheed. These employees have come in and are working exactly as other employees with normal training and supervision, with no special work areas or equipment provided for them. Furthermore, the present number of handicapped workers at the plant supplies practically all of the immediate need for such employment.

We learn that in every case the worker is entirely resourceful, thereby failing to detract from the war effort by the requirement of assistance from other workers and lessening the output even in the slightest degree.

employment



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
HELEN McWILLIAMS, Associate Editor

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Volume XV      January, 1943      Number 2

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## *Unfounded War-Blinded Rumors*

Not long ago the trunk lines of the Braille Institute of America, Inc. were kept busy for several days, answering inquiries from well-intentioned but misinformed patriotic men and women offering their services or asking what they could do to help the great number of war blinded coming back from the front lines. It developed that from various sources these inquirers had heard that a trainload, some 250 of war-blinded servicemen wounded at Pearl Harbor, had just passed through Los Angeles. When these inquirers were advised that it was all news to the Braille Institute, that we were quite sure there was some gross exaggeration, too frequently the reaction was that either the Braille Institute was indifferent to the needs of these blinded men, or else not well informed.

Among other unfounded rumors is the statement, repeatedly publicized, purportedly coming from the War Department at Washington, that, included in the casualties since Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, there are now 2,067 war-blinded servicemen for whom little or nothing is being done, all of whom are still dependent upon public

charity for their rehabilitation and care.

The fact is that the War Department has not yet released any figures at all on the number of persons blinded in our military service. Confirmation of this is clearly shown in the telegram received January 9th by the Braille Institute from the chairman of the U. S. Committee on War Blind of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, as follows:

"TALKED WITH CAPTAIN MILLER, McNUTT'S ASSISTANT, WEDNESDAY. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET INFORMATION YOU DESIRE BUT AS YET HAD RECEIVED BUT ONE NAME. DOUBTLESS A FEW OF THOSE WOUNDED WILL EVENTUALLY BE BLIND BUT NO GOVERNMENT STATISTICS YET. I BELIEVE TWO HAVE LOST THEIR SIGHT IN TRAINING BUT NONE TOTALLY BLIND BROUGHT HOME FROM OVERSEAS."

The most recent rumor has it that there are now 325 blinded servicemen at the Sawtelle (California) Home for Veterans, most of whom are under 30 years of age. The truth about this is that there is not even one blinded serviceman of the present war in the Sawtelle home. In fact, the blinded veterans of past wars who were stationed there have nearly all been removed elsewhere for safety purposes in the event of enemy invasion of the Pacific Coast.

## *War Blind Solicitation Unnecessary*

To counteract and correct unfounded reports and publicity which have recently appeared in a few of California's metropolitan daily papers, wherein the number of persons blinded in military action since Pearl Harbor and the urgent need for financial help with their care and rehabilitation have been grossly exaggerated, the Braille Institute feels morally obligated to give to the public the following information:



In the first place, the hospitalization, rehabilitation—care, training and after-care—of our blinded servicemen, as well as all disabled veterans, civilians and others blinded or disabled as a result of this present conflict, is a responsibility incumbent upon the Federal Government. Good old Uncle Sam is willing and ready to discharge this obligation. Proof of this is to be seen in a telegram recently received by the Braille Institute from the chairman of a committee working with the Federal Government on the care and training of our war blinded, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, as follows:

"HAVE NOT MET A SINGLE LAWMAKER WHO FEELS ADEQUATE FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR REHABILITATION WAR DISABLED WILL NOT BE MADE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITHIN FEW WEEKS. NO REASON TO APPEAL TO PRIVATE CHARITY FOR WAR BLIND. IT IS AN UNFOUNDED INSULT TO OUR COUNTRY TO ASSUME FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT FULLY DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS CONNECTION."

Therefore, Mr. Public Citizen and Philanthropist, there is surely no need for "passing the hat" or for the holding of benefits and giving of concerts, or public solicitations of any kind, to take care of the war-blinded men. Neither are funds necessary, or the solicitation of them, with which to furnish guide dogs for these men, according to Morris Frank, vice-president of Seeing Eye, Inc. All of this should be discouraged, and if all who are thoughtful and wise will make inquiries of long-established, reputable agencies for the welfare of the blind in their respective communities before opening either their hearts or their pocketbooks, they will be spared much disappointment in the future.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc. will be glad to answer such inquiries and to show sound, logical reasons why you should not contribute funds to any agency, private or public, at this time, for the care, training and after-care of the war blinded.

The Secretary-General of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, Mr. Alfred Allen, care of Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, Winnetka, Illinois, will also be glad to answer your inquiry.



### *Grateful Acknowledgments*

With the help of many friends who responded generously to the Christmas appeal in the December Bulletin, several lovely, wholesome food boxes were delivered to the needy blind in the city by the Braille Institute truck the day before Christmas. These boxes were filled with nutritious food: fresh fruit and vegetables, a generous supply of canned food and a "rolled ham" weighing eight or ten pounds. Ham! Ham, in these days! Mm, mm! Who will say there isn't a Santa Claus? Certainly, not the needy blind who received these boxes of food.

To Mr. Skow of Ralph's Market, West 7th Street, who made it possible for us to purchase these hams, and to Mr. Frank I. Hale of Hale's Food Mart, Melrose Avenue, who assisted us in obtaining the food at the least possible effort to ourselves, we hereby express grateful thanks. We are grateful, also, to the many friends whose Christmas contributions helped to fill these boxes.



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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That one without physical sight may live a normal life in the industry or profession of his own choosing is demonstrated by the various stories that come to this department. Recently, from Brooklyn, N. Y. came an account of one undaunted gentleman, Ernest Starke, who has found success as a teacher of music, church organist, concert virtuoso and as a busy owner and operator of a music store. After forty-five years of work, Mr. Starke is now actively engaged as a teacher for piano. He has reared and educated four sons, two of whom are now in the Army.

♦

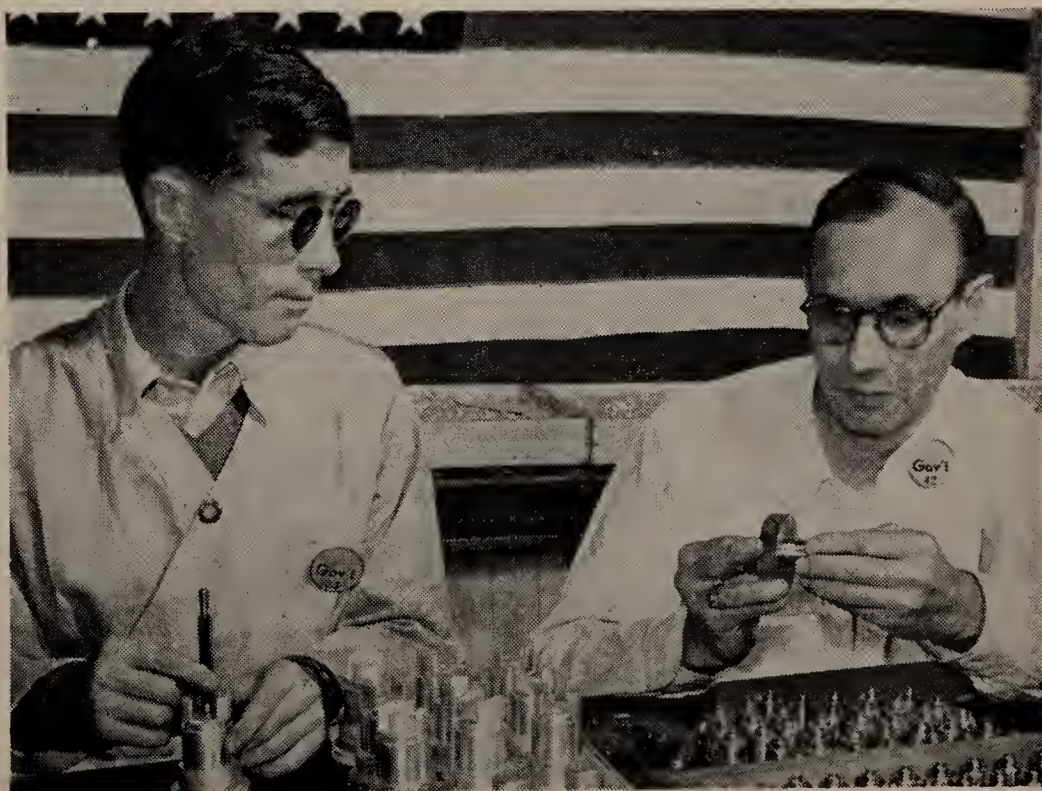
Also from Brooklyn is another uncompromising young man. Charles Robles started out as a theatrical trouper. When blindness overtook him, he refused to alter his plans and as a consequence, soon joined his troupe again. His path has led him through the United States and western Europe, in vaudeville, burlesque and Broadway hits. He has played with such luminaries as Bing Crosby, Pola Negri and many others. Today, Mr. Robles is thoroughly enjoying his work as master of ceremonies at a large club in Brooklyn.

♦

One of the most particular and trying jobs of defense work is that of ordnance inspector. Ac-

cording to Capt. A. E. Baring of the Los Angeles Ordnance Region Office, the two blind inspectors, James Burns and Charles Limerick, checking small parts by touch at the Grayson Heat Control, Ltd., are among the best. Because the parts are small, they require very close inspection and Captain Baring says, "These men are thorough and exact. In fact, on some checking work they use both hands, working with two gauges, and really check a much greater number of parts than do other workers."

One of these men, James Burns, since boyhood was a frequent visitor at the Braille Institute. Being an unusually proficient and rapid Braille reader and a born mimic, as well, "Jimmie" often participated in the "open house" programs at the Institute and contributed much to the entertainment of the guests. During his college days he topped the list of student borrowers at the Braille Library in the selection of



James Burns and Charles Limerick

Times Photo



literature best adapted for the elucidation of his major subjects. He is a graduate from U. C. L. A., majoring in psychology, and for a time held an associate professorship at Los Angeles Junior College.



Julius Cota, Jr. of Santa Barbara, California, has found an opportunity to satisfy his desire to aid his country by working as a willing and entirely competent "aircraft spotter". He has trained himself, with the aid of his acute sense of hearing, to recognize planes and their altitude by the sounds of their motors. By the strength of his desire and constant practice, the former law student became so expert that he passed his application tests with flying colors. Much of the time since blindness struck seven years ago, he has been guided by his police dog, "Partner", who ably escorts him to and from his work. His poise has been unshaken and he has developed a working philosophy that is wholly adequate.



Proving to his own satisfaction that physical sight is not necessary to earn his living, William M. Kopach of Butte, Montana, is successfully operating Silver Bow County's first state-supervised vending stand for the blind recently opened at the county post office. This project is the second one of the kind established in the state and was planned by the Montana Commission for the Blind in cooperation with Silver Bow County Commissioners and the State Bureau of Rehabilitation. Mr. Kopach was selected as the operator for this new project because of his sound qualifications and dependability and will receive the entire proceeds from the business.

Not content to just work in defense activities was Evelyn Watson of Buffalo, N. Y. Recently her intense interest and creative faculties caused her to invent a new instrument, the patent for which has been purchased by the Toledo Scale Company. This new device permits blind people to weigh by ear such things as powder for fuses, mica for radio installations, buttons, screws, etc. The machine, set to indicate a particular weight, signals *dit-tah* when the needle is under the mark, *dah-dit* when over and *buz-z-z* when the weight is exact. Miss Watson is not content to stop at this but is already working to perfect another instrument equally beneficial to the blind.



One of the happiest, though possibly one of the least spectacular lives is that of 50-year-old Mr. L. Cole of Sutton, Surrey, England. He was a professional pastry cook before losing his physical vision, which forced him to give up his profession. However, he wasted little time between jobs. For two years he sold groceries and baked goods by the simple manner of carrying them from house to house in his arms. Designing a truck for his needs, he transferred his load to wheels. After pulling the truck for two years, it became too much for Mr. Cole and he and his wife saved until they could buy a van, which she drives for him. The war has struck his business a heavy blow and now he is learning that he can turn his skill toward repair work. Recently, aside from replacing window panes, he has made frames for the black-out and has constructed air raid shelters for himself and his neighbors. Resourceful, busy — he experiences a keen satisfaction in a life which admits no insurmountable handicap.



Another young patriot is blind 23-year-old Byron H. Webb of Chicago. Graduated recently from the DePaul University, he was anxious to go directly into active war work. Realizing keenly his handicap, he immediately began to think of things in which per-

haps a sighted person would not be adept. He hit upon the helpful idea of teaching the repairing of radios in the dark. So well was his suggestion received by the Signal Corps that he was immediately employed to teach their men these much needed emergency repairs.



## OFF SCHEDULE

*Light* is not running exactly on schedule these days. This is due chiefly to necessary war adjustments here and there. Changes in office personnel due to these circumstances are also responsible, not only for *Light's* difficulties and delays, but also for other temporary delays and delinquencies with reference to calls for welfare service which, ordinarily, receive immediate attention.

Many philanthropic agencies such as the Braille Institute are finding it very difficult these times to carry on, chiefly because they cannot compete in the wages and salaries paid by war-time, profit-making industries. The income of the latter can be adjusted commensurate with costs. The income of charitable organizations cannot be so controlled. Unless this income is proportionate with cost of service rendered, the service must be curtailed. There is absolutely no way of levying a charge for welfare service corresponding with its cost, as is possible with commercial and war-time industries.

And in times like these, there are so many worthy war-time appeals for charity that should and must be met, that the long-established agencies operating for the amelioration of human want and woe are very apt to find

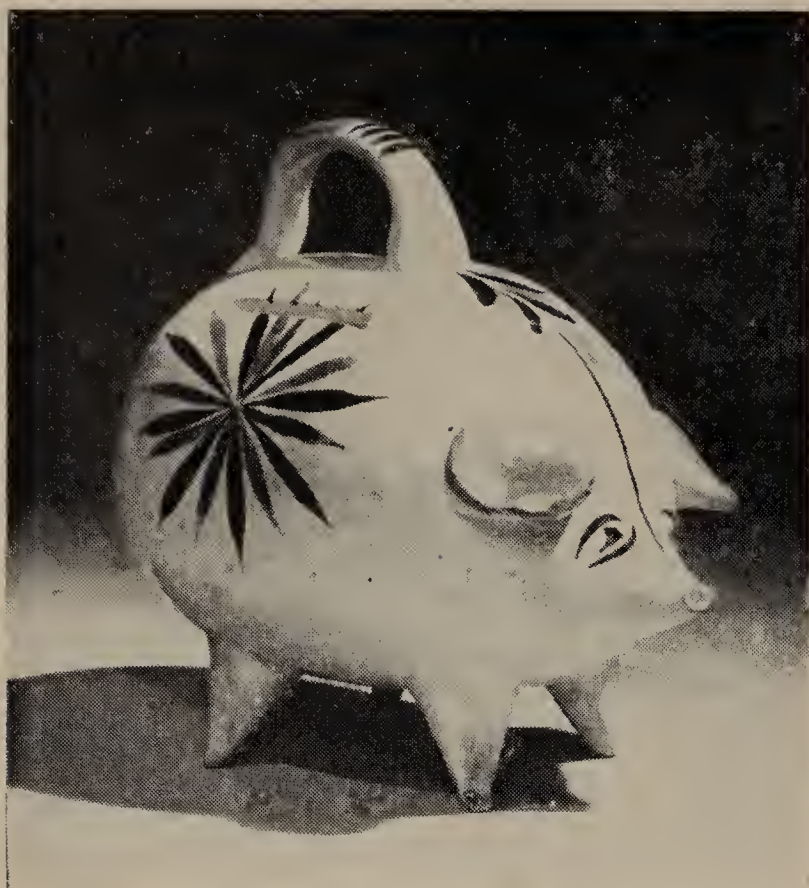
their incomes wholly inadequate to meet the demand for welfare service in their respective fields. The payment, therefore, of executive and administrative salaries competitive with those paid by profit-making war-time industries is out of the question. Even our printing department, which operates as nearly as possible on a non-profit basis, is suffering from necessary war-time adjustments and from shortage of man power.

We have, however, increased salaries and wages substantially in justice to our faithful employees. We have done this without limiting our welfare service and without raising prices any within the last year on the literature in Braille and Moon type, printed under contract for outside agencies.

Our free library service to the blind of California and Arizona has not yet been curtailed. Our free home teaching program is still maintained on a normal basis; in fact, as yet, we have not curtailed a single service in our welfare work or in our literature circulation except to be a few days late in rendering this service.

For the present, we ask all to be tolerant for we are doing the best we can to render service on time.





### *Pig Banks*

As announced from time to time, the pig bank plan, initiated by our good friend, Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, under the banner of "A penny a day drives darkness away" has been a substantial help to our welfare fund. It was, therefore, with a good deal of reluctance that, in deference to the Director of the United States Mint, who requested all pennies to be put into circulation for the saving of copper, we asked our pig bankers to send in their banks. As these came in, we answered each banker, suggesting that we furnish another bank for dimes, under the new slogan, "A dime every ten days drives darkness away." In effect, this would be asking no more than we were asking under the penny plan, while it offered an opportunity to those who could give more than a penny a day, to do so.

Nearly all who have returned their banks have asked for empty ones to be filled on this basis. If those who have not will write for banks when returning theirs, these will be mailed postpaid.

### *Appreciation*

Los Angeles, California.

I am writing this letter because your organization has been so helpful to me recently in so many ways, and to let you know I am truly grateful for what you have done for me. I think it is splendid that Los Angeles has such a grand institution.

Until recently, I did not know that the Braille Institute did anything but publish books. A blind friend of mine told me that I could get my talking book machine repaired, and I called you by telephone. The results have been most satisfactory.

I hope that this letter will prove to you that I am sincerely grateful, as I am sure so many others are.

MRS. D. B.

\* \* \*

To Mr. Elmer Jones of the Jones Decorating Company, we are again indebted; this time, for the donation of a beautiful, new flag which may be seen soaring majestically from the flagpole on our building at headquarters, 741 North Vermont Avenue, any business day. As announced elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Jones very graciously contributed the service flag which may now be seen in our front window, bearing four blue stars. Thanks again, Mr. Jones, very gratefully.

A flag cannot soar without a flagpole. Many of our members and readers will remember that our flagpole was a gift from Mr. Henry L. Woodland, and we wish again to thank Mr. Woodland for this generous kindness.



## OUR WORK AT LOCKHEED

For three and a half years I had been employed at The Industrial Work Shop for the Blind. Pearl, my wife, had been doing the various jobs required in maintaining a six-room home. Since our marriage each of us had been receiving State Aid.

Two months ago we were fortunate enough to secure employment by the Lockheed Vega Aircraft Corporation. We work at Plant 4 of Lockheed in Maywood, which is a suburb of Los Angeles. Since I am totally blind, Lockheed requires that I have a guide dog as a safety measure. My wife has partial vision and is able to get around by herself.

Aldo, my guide dog, is a large, male German Shepherd from the National Eye Dog Association. He is very gentle and has become a great favorite of the employees of the plant. When we reach the gate in the morning the dog and I go one way and Pearl another. We wend our way up one aisle and down another until we reach the time clock. After punching my time card we continue another hundred yards to my bench, where the dog lies quietly leashed to my stool throughout the day. Due to the fact that I am working around a nest of blasting riveting machines everyone is amazed

that the dog does not become annoyed by the noise that never lets up.

My department is devoted to the manufacture of stabilizers. In the stabilizer there are many pulleys which I assemble. I perform other jobs, such as setting rivets, burring parts and turning cotter keys.

Pearl works in another department called detailed assembly. Her work is varied but consists largely of putting together pulley brackets which are used all over the plane. Once she did a small drilling job and occasionally paints metal parts which will touch against other metal to prevent them from corroding.

*Continued on Page 22*



Blaine McDowell and Mrs. McDowell, husband and wife, on their way to work at Lockheed. Aldo leads his blind master over and around all pitfalls and Mrs. McDowell who is also blind, safely trusts their guidance.



## ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Continued from Page 6*

pand its welfare service to the Nation's blind, steadily through the years.

We are grateful, too, for the opportunity given us to serve actively in such a worthy Cause—a Cause which we all feel confident is destined, under the Grace of a kind Providence, to liberate many thousands from the bondage of limitation and lack, imposed by the loss of physical sight. To this end we shall further pledge ourselves, as long as we are privileged to serve the Braille Institute of America, Inc., in any capacity whatsoever.

There follows a summary of the departmental reports.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

During the year staff members talked to eight different groups on the work of the Institute. Among these was a talk before the Quota Club of Fresno, on the occasion of the celebration of that organization's twenty-third anniversary.

Others addressed included the Missionary Society of the Alvarado Church of Christ, Soroptomist Club of North Hollywood, Federated State Societies, Business and Professional Women's Club of Eagle Rock, Student Body, Beverly Hills High School and the Kiwanis Club of Westwood.

At the Los Angeles Breakfast Club, September 30, in celebration of the Braille Institute's twenty-third anniversary, Dr. Lloyd C. Douglas, a member of the advisory board, was the principal speaker and Miss Genevieve Wiley was featured soloist.

Three radio appearances were made during the year, among which was a speaker on the Blind Artists Guild program, KFWB, Hollywood.

Portions of the Scriptures in Braille were exhibited at the Presbyterian Church, Glendale, San Marino Public Library and St. John's Lutheran Church, Pasadena, in connection with Bible displays.

Light was issued three times during the year, October, January and April, 12,700 copies being printed. The January issue included a resume of the annual reports for the previous year ending September 30, 1941.

Two bulletins were mailed during the year at Christmas time and in July. The mailing of the Christmas bulletin totaled 15,000; July, 3,155.

The guest register discloses 144 were shown through the plant.

Publicity during the year included stories in the *Ghost Town News* and *Jobs and Careers*. The monthly *News Bulletin* issued by the State Department of Social Welfare contained a most comprehensive article on the activities of the Institute "as a tribute to the outstanding work of this important agency." The *Hollywood Citizen-News* carried an illustrated feature story in connection with the re-binding of ink print books to be donated to the Victory Book Drive.

### PRINTING DEPARTMENT

A high level of production was maintained throughout the year, however, work in the composition room was slack during the summer months. This condition is fairly normal since production is usually speeded up in June to complete government awards by the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

The slack time was used advantageously this year, the stereotyping and proof-reading rooms being completely remodelled and modernized. Special care was taken to provide



better light and ventilation for the workers.

We have been very fortunate in obtaining a steady flow of raw material. The two main items in production are zinc and paper. All of the transcribing is done on zinc plates, and in order to keep up with production needs, all old zinc is sent to the mills to be reprocessed, thus assuring us an adequate supply of this vital product.

As in countless other industries, we have been affected by labor shortages and by a larger percentage of labor turnover than in the past. One job, that of shipping clerk, always filled by a man in the past, is now being filled by a woman.

During the year 71 titles were completed and shipped, with 16 titles undelivered as of September 30, 1942.

Total number of copies of all kinds printed during the year, 45,795; total number of pages of all kinds printed, 3,263,920.

As of September 30, there were 16 full-time employees in this department, one less than last year, and three part-time employees. Average length of service 7 years, 7 months; average factory pay, 65 cents per hour.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year it was found advisable to close minor cases that entailed only library or out-of-state services, while 99 major and 179 minor cases were added. The total number of active cases is now 1,299. The month-by-month activities of this department affected 812 major cases and 271 minor cases, a total of 1,083 cases.

The following donations were made during the year: 22 radios; 198 white canes; 2,916 publications and 43 miscellaneous items.

Services included: 59 radios re-



One of our Library borrowers.

paired; 222 talking book machines repaired; 263 theatre tickets secured; 39 transportation letters written; transportation secured for 9 clients and 45 miscellaneous services rendered; 61 welfare calls were made.

From the register of board and room for the blind, several clients were placed in pleasant surroundings.

Social welfare loans were made in five cases to purchase clothing, supply the balance on a radio and other emergencies.

Business placement loans were made in four cases to provide rental on a power machine, pay for publicity folders, a power machine course and the purchase of broom corn.

Cash donations included the purchase of a guide dog for a man who needed it to get to and from business; funds advanced for an eye operation, which enabled the client to return to his former trade; Christmas baskets and groceries and transportation for a blind spastic paralytic girl to a special home for such cases in the northern part of the State.

A variety of activities of this department not otherwise classified or re-



corded include: Free distribution of Bibles, textbooks, Braille and Moon primers, instruction sheets and calendars.

With reference to the free servicing and re-distribution of talking book machines and radios, parts have been difficult to obtain. In spite of this, the work has been continued and many letters of appreciation have been received from clients.

In addition many hours have been given over to consultation and advice, and furnishing information. Braille manuscripts have been bound and small volumes have been transcribed.

#### HOME TEACHING DEPARTMENT

A total of 69 students received instruction in Braille or Moon type in their homes and 34 received special help either by correspondence or personal interviews. Of the regular students, 18 completed the course in Braille or Moon, and 26 were discontinued due to illness or removal from the call area.

A total of 3,805 miles were traveled and 501 home teaching calls were made.

The teaching was carried on by one full-time home teacher and five volunteers. During the year, however, three of the volunteers withdrew to give more time to war work.

#### MAGAZINE CIRCULATION

As of September 30, 1941, the circulation of The Braille Mirror was 293. In March, 1942, a special rate of \$1.00 a year was made to non-subscribers and the circulation was increased considerably, being 547 as of September 30, 1942.

This circulation includes 36 foreign subscribers and 103 which are placed in the regional libraries by The Library

of Congress. Twenty-seven free subscriptions were placed during the year and 55 sample copies sent out.

The California Reporter, a monthly bulletin to the blind of California, was discontinued with the December, 1941, issue when there seemed to be no further need for the publication at this time, at least.

Our contract for printing the Lutheran periodicals, a monthly and a quarterly, includes the mailing of these magazines. The average monthly circulation of The Lutheran Messenger in Braille was 1,147; while the average circulation of The Lutheran Herald, a quarterly Moon publication, was 829.

We also print under contract for the Christian Science Church in Boston two of their periodicals in Braille, the monthly Bible Lessons and the Herald, a quarterly. However, our contract does not call for distribution of this literature, which is shipped to Boston and circulated from there.

#### FREE LENDING LIBRARY

During the year the number of Braille books was increased by 830 volumes and now total 9,685 volumes. Many of the titles added appeared on the current year's best-seller lists.

Moon books were increased by 86 volumes and now total 1,073 volumes.

Talking books were increased by 331 containers and now total 1,439 containers.

As of September 30, 1942, the library was serving 666 active patrons in California and Arizona.

Circulation during the year included 2,728 Braille volumes; 394 Moon volumes; 10,208 talking book containers and 1,699 periodicals.

Due to the war we are no longer able to send donated books and magazines to foreign countries, so this ma-



terial is being used to supply reading matter to blind inmates in prisons and hospitals throughout the country.

The library staff includes a librarian, one full-time assistant and one part-time stenographer.

Excerpts from a few letters of appreciation are re-printed here: "I wish to thank you for the fine service and wonderful reading matter you have sent me right along and all of which I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated."

"What an enormous gift of reason and benevolence our handicapped friends have gathered from the blessings of Braille work. . . . I trust that each and every recipient is as grateful as I am."

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### OUR WORK AT LOCKHEED

*Continued from Page 17*

Our group leaders are very considerate in trying to find new jobs for us each day. When they discover that we can do something as well as any one else they are careful to put that work aside for us. We never know from one day to the next just what we will do and that makes our work very interesting.

We find a great deal of satisfaction in the thought that we are doing our little bit toward an Allied victory as well as working with sighted people. We have made a great many friends since we have started to work and both of us agree that every one at Lockheed is especially friendly. We are grateful that private industry has offered blind people an opportunity that was unheard of heretofore.

(Signed) BLAINE McDOWELL.

### U. S. WAR COMMITTEE ON THE WAR BLIND

*Continued from Page 8*

tary, Virginia Commission for the Blind, Richmond, Va.

This information should be convincing that the care, training and after-care of the U. S. war blinded is in good hands and is being well organized by those experienced in welfare work for the blind.

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### OUR SERVICE FLAG

A lovely service flag, with four stars, now hangs in our front window. Among those "starred" is the Braille Institute's former superintendent, Major Alan T. Hunt. Major Hunt graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1924. For nearly two years he has been stationed in the South Pacific islands, but shortly before Christmas, very much to our surprise and pleasure, he walked into our headquarters, having come home on a furlough. The posts of the other three boys are unknown, but all who know them, as we at the Braille Institute do, are sure that they are serving the United Nations loyally, efficiently and courageously. May God guide and protect them in their service, and return them to us safely, is our sincere prayer. This lovely "4-star" flag was generously donated by Elmer Jones of the Jones Decorating Company, to whom we here express grateful thanks.



## "JUST A MINOR HANDICAP"

*Continued from Page 7*

mission for the Blind, which had been helping Carl in his search for employment, decided that he was a good investment, and through the Commission the necessary equipment was furnished.

The first months weren't easy, but as satisfied patients told the news of Carl's skill to their friends, his business grew until now it keeps him busy.

He has made a place for himself in the community which any ambitious sighted young man might envy. He has spoken over the radio, before the Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Clubs. A prominent business man in Mason City says that Carl is the best thing that ever happened to the community.

The young people of the church which Carl attends secured a Braille hymnal for him, and the Lions Club gave him a Braille Bible.

In the summer of 1941 Carl left his business long enough to go to Morristown, New Jersey, and now his constant companion is Andy, a German Boxer Seeing Eye dog.

Carl attributes his success to several things. Much credit goes to the Y. M. C. A. officials in Mason City, the general secretary and other members of the staff for their patience, kindness, and constant help and cooperation. The interest and backing of the State Board of Education and the Iowa Commission for the Blind were also most helpful.

But those who know him give most of the credit to Carl Michael, who considers blindness "just a minor handicap."

## ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

*On Sale At*

### BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

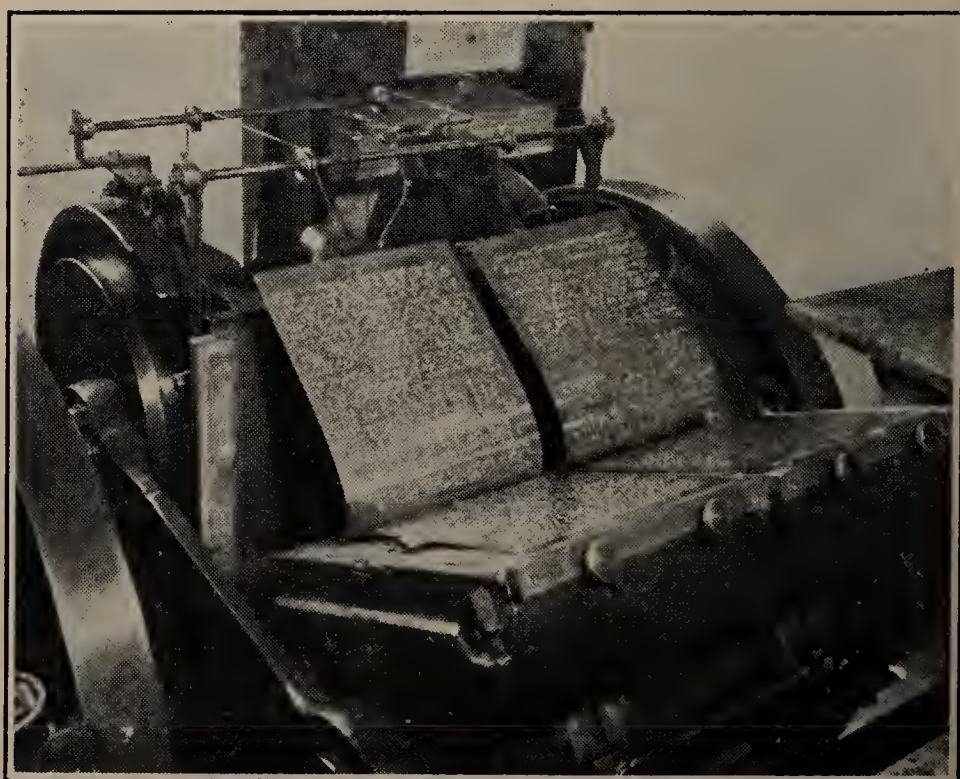
Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus, 34 x 4 (cells) . . . . .	\$2.00
#1 Braille Pocket Slate and Stylus, 27 x 4 (cells) . . . . .	1.10
#2 Braille Slate and Stylus, Postcard size, 19 x 6 (cells) . . . . .	1.10
Hill Metal Writing Guide (for longhand writing), with Instruction Sheet . . . .	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing) . . . . .	Postpaid .15
Braille paper, Sunset Tympan, 75#, 9 x 12, per pound . . . . .	.17
Braille paper, roll Manila, 9 x 12, per pound . . . . .	.15
Standard Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille) . . . . .	Postpaid .15
Playing Cards, Brailled . . . . .	.75 and 1.00
Braille Dominoes, interlocking . . . . .	1.00
Checkerboard and Men . . . . .	.75

ITEMS NOT MARKED "POSTPAID" ARE SUBJECT TO POSTAGE CHARGE AND SALES TAX IN CALIFORNIA



## SOME DON'TS TO DO

At the request of several agencies for the blind, the "Don'ts," published in October *Light* under the above heading have been reprinted in leaflet form and may be purchased at 5c per copy, or 50c per dozen, postpaid.



Two Braille embossed zinc plates, mounted on platen press, ready for printing.



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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Vol. XV, No. 3

April, 1943



## BUILT BY A BLINDED CANADIAN SOLDIER

By JAMES H. COLLINS



COL. E. A. BAKER

Managing Director Canadian National Institute for the Blind

IT is no secret that, until the first World War, with public attention drawn to blinded soldiers, Canada was backward in providing for its sightless people the training and opportunities that had been developed in England and the United States. There was no institution for the blind,



the actual number in the country was not known, the public attitude was apathetic, because Canadians had never had the problems and abilities of the blind brought to their attention.

The war changed that in a dramatic way, through a German sniper's bullet.

One day in September, 1915, Lieutenant E. A. Baker, a young officer in the Canadian Engineers, was repairing battered trenches near Kemmel Hill, Belgium. Going direct from the lecture rooms of Queen's University, at Kingston, Ontario, the previous spring, into the Canadian Army, he hoped that the war would eventually be over, and that he could go back home and continue in the engineering profession.

While working on the trenches, a bullet destroyed his sight, and there came out then a persistent streak in his character that was to count greatly in his future career. The terrain was a jumble of broken wire and sandbags, continually swept by enemy machine-gun fire and a field-gun. He alone had in his head the detail necessary to go on with the rehabilitation job. He was carried to a dugout, to wait for stretcher-bearers, but refused to leave the line until he had dictated a report by which others could complete his task.

Baker knew no more of the problems of the blind than he did about the people on Mars.

And of course he had never heard of four men living in Toronto who had been gathering at intervals to discuss plans and methods for doing something more for Canada's blind citizens.

These four men were all blind.

Sherman Swift was struggling with the beginnings of a small Braille library in Toronto.

Dr. C. R. Dickson was an eminent

Toronto physician, who had lost his sight while experimenting with X-rays.

Fred Johnston had built up a fine commercial business in Toronto.

Charles Carruthers was the only blind attorney in Ontario.

And they, of course, did not know that the fortunes of war had enlisted for them a co-worker who would build a great institution on the foundation they had laid.

Promoted to Captain, and decorated with the British Military Cross and French Croix de Guerre, Baker was sent to the famous St. Dunstan's training school for blinded soldiers, in England. There, he made a rapid adjustment to his new handicap, and returned to Canada, confident that he could continue in his profession. In fact, for a time, he was in the employ of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission.

But his energy, and his practical demonstration of what a blinded person can do, both in rehabilitation and the use of his abilities despite the handicap, led the Canadian Government to appoint him as director of training and rehabilitation for blinded Canadian soldiers.

The success of two or three other blind Canadian soldiers, and the great public interest aroused in Canada by St. Dunstan's training of Canadian boys, gave the final push that was needed to get going the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. The blind soldiers discovered the blind civilians who had had this dream. Public understanding and enthusiasm made it possible to raise the necessary funds.

The first general secretary of the institute was the late C. W. Holmes, who laid the actual foundation, and when he retired, over twenty-two years



ago, Captain Baker took his place, and is credited with the amazing growth and enviable success of the organization.

Canada is an enormous country, with only about 12,000,000 people scattered over nearly 3,700,000 square miles—hardly four persons per mile. That raised obstacles to providing services for the blind.

Captain Baker attacked the obstacles with his drive and personality, and today Canada, instead of being backward in its care of the blind, has come to be a model for other countries.

Americans have come to know Captain Baker intimately, because he served as president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind during the biennium ending in July, 1941, and his term of office was notable for its excellence and initiative.

One of his outstanding acts was the appointment of a committee on the care, training and after-care of soldiers blinded in the present war, and also in war work. This committee met for the first time six months before Pearl Harbor, and showed its foresight in providing for an urgent need before the need arose.

Captain Baker is also called "Colonel", because that honorary military title was given him three years ago, in recognition of his counsel in connection with the Canadian Militia.

He has been made a member of the Order of the British Empire; awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by his old university, Queen's; is a school trustee in the Toronto suburb where he makes his home; is chairman of the Soldier's Aid Committee in the Province of Ontario; has a fine family,

three sons and a daughter, with the two older boys serving in the Canadian forces in England.

For nearly a quarter-century, all his drive, confidence and persistence have been devoted to the institution—except for the time out that he demands for his hobby, which is home carpentry.

American workers for the blind, both sighted and sightless, know him by personal contact as one of the finest fellows to be met with in any profession, business or public work.

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### RADIO FOR SALE

As residuary legatee under the will of the late Dorothy M. Biethan, the Braille Institute of America, Inc. came into possession of a very fine Stromberg-Carlson radio, with wire remote control. Unfortunately, it has not a combination radio and record playing equipment. Miss Biethan paid \$475 for the radio, which was only used a few weeks, on account of her illness.

Naturally, the Institute wishes to realize as much out of its sale as possible, in order that Miss Biethan's bequest to the blind may benefit a greater number. Our members, friends, contributors and *Light* readers are invited to call at the Braille Institute to examine this beautiful radio after May 10.

We take advantage of the opportunity here presented, again to express grateful thanks for Miss Biethan's generous bequest, mention of which was made in the December, 1942, Bulletin. We regret that it is not possible to thank her personally for her benevolent kindness, which was of such magnitude as to assist very substantially in the expansion of our welfare service to the blind.



# VISION SURPASSES SIGHT

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

(Reprinted by request from *Light* for April, 1938)

STATISTICS compiled over a period of years seem to sustain the conclusion that 90% of the blind of the English-reading nations lost their sight after reaching the age of 25 years. This means that nine out of every ten blind persons you meet are constituted much the same as you. Their tastes, ambitions and desires are, therefore, closely akin to yours. To understand them, you must concede this point at the outset.

By possessing physical sight in their earlier years, they once enjoyed the arts, landscape scenes, the theater and other things which still contribute to your happiness; nor does the loss of physical sight rob the individual of them completely. Through the power of vision—the gift to discern underlying realities unseen by the physical eyes—they are enabled to enjoy external realities.

To many of the blind, sounds, odors, and the like contribute to their appreciation of realistic forms and external scenes. Bird, brook and blossom, the woods, green hills and verdant vales, lofty mountains and cool grottoes—all mean about as much to them as when they used to drink in their beauty and grandeur through the physical eyes.

The writer knows a blind man who objects to riding in an enclosed automobile. He says it prevents him from getting an impression of the trees, buildings and scenery as he rides. For want of a better word, the blind often speak of this faculty as, "the sensing of obstacles". Some of the blind have acquired it more than others. Having discerned this, you may have spoken of

it as "the development of a sixth sense"; but it is nothing of the kind. In reality, it is merely the development of latent mental resources with which every individual is endowed but which few use, until compelled to do so. Likely, it may be what the Scotch call "second sight".

Never imagine, therefore, that a blind man is not thrilled by the very phenomena which give wings to your emotions.

Lest you may say this sounds too transcendental, please remember that physical blindness compels the individual constantly to utilize the power of mental sight to offset the limitations of his handicap. If he lays aside a book, or anything, for that matter, he must remember where he laid it or else spend hours searching for it, perhaps in vain.

The writer of this article speaks from experience. He suffered the loss of physical sight more than a quarter of a century ago after having enjoyed it for a quarter of a century. In those days, he never knew where to find his hat. Now, through exercise of his mental vision, if he lays anything aside and no one molests it, he can usually find it immediately, even though weeks or even months may have intervened.

Experience and observation tend to sustain the fact that the perpetual exercise of the mind faculties extend the possibilities of thought. It quickens the sensibilities, enhances the ability to concentrate and broadens the powers of imagination and discrimination.

Thus the person deprived of eyesight learns to see mentally instead of



physically. Drawing upon his memory, he recalls scenes and faces from his childhood up. Through his imagination, he forms accurate mental pictures of the things he hears, feels and reads in his Braille books. This should not seem transcendental to anyone, if for no other reason that the commonly accepted fact that even the artist's painting was a mental picture before it appeared on the canvas.

As a matter of fact, all tangible phenomena have a mental origin. Practical ideas frequently materialize through the reading of good books and the study of scientific literature. Traveling is not the only way of seeing the world. Authors and lecturers often portray vivid pictures of distant lands to those who have been denied the advantage of travel.

Therefore, through the printing of good books in Braille—or by inviting a blind friend to go with you to a theater, to attend a lecture, to go for a stroll in the park, or to go for an automobile ride in the country, where the meadow lark may be heard—you can paint beautiful and elevating pictures on the canvas of memory which he will not soon forget.

Even the dreams we have in sleep,

when thought is more oblivious of physical selfhood, sustain this logic, and prove to some extent that sight is primarily mental. The writer, himself without physical sight, is often glad for some of his night dreams. They bring back pleasant memories of bygone days and boyhood scenes, of thrilling experiences when riding the wide, open range. They sometimes refresh his thought most vividly of places and things he saw in earlier years, causing them to stand out in bold relief in his mental horizon.

They also bring back the faces of loved ones on which he has not gazed for more than 25 years, though perchance some of them may be with him daily. To him there is one noteworthy thing about his night dreams. Never, in the thirty-one years he has been deprived of physical sight, when playing life's dramas in his dreams, has he felt the sting of blindness nor thought of himself as being without physical sight nor handicapped as a result of it.

There is no wonder, then, that he is often glad for his night dreams; and glad, too, that in the absence of physical sight, he has learned to develop that inward vision which is, in reality, **FIRST SIGHT**, which can never be impaired by chance or change.



"Vision without a task makes a dreamer;  
A task without a vision makes a drudge;  
But the two combined move the world."

—Anon.



# CALIFORNIA'S WHITE CANE LAW

Attention! Motorists, Pedestrians, Public Citizens, *Light Readers*!

CARELESS and wilful violations of California's White Cane Law in behalf of the blind, repeatedly reported, causes us again to remind *Light readers* of this law, that they may not find themselves in its grasp, nor imperil the lives of California's blind, who are using the streets and highways in a struggle to make themselves self-supporting.

The law is known as Chapter 126, Statutes 1935, in the California Code. Inasmuch as several other states have passed similar laws, this reminder should be of interest, as well, to readers outside the State. And, in states where such laws have not been enacted, it is hoped the information given here will be the means of initiating and passing such legislation.

Under the law, motorists and drivers of moving vehicles are required to come to a complete stop when approaching or coming into contact with a blind pedestrian, carrying a white cane or a white cane tipped with red. Failure to do this, or to take precaution against accident or injury to such persons, is a misdemeanor, subject to severe penalty. The law provides further that any pedestrian who fails to give the right-of-way to a person carrying a white cane is also guilty of a misdemeanor. Persons, not blind or partially blind, are prohibited, by penalty, of carrying white canes, or white canes tipped with red.

Fortunately, the present man-shortage epoch

has made it possible for many of the blind to find employment in war industry, and in private business, which was previously denied them.

Observation through a period of years brings convincing conclusions to experienced workers for the blind, with and without sight, that many of the blind are capable of using white canes with both satisfaction and safety. Especially is this true with those blinded from birth, or since early childhood. Only rarely is it found that those blinded after reaching maturity (and about 90 per cent of the Nation's blind lost their sight after reaching the age of 25 years) become truly independent in transporting themselves alone by any process. This is the case whether the process is white canes, so-called guide dogs, or what not.

Hundreds of blind men and women have fitted themselves for places of responsibility in the professions and trades, but the problem of getting to and from their work unassisted is still unsolved. The white cane law prom-



TRAFFIC STOPS FOR WHITE CANE



ises a partial solution to this problem, but obviously this humanitarian measure, designed to give more freedom and independence to the blind pedestrians, will never give them the safety and protection intended until the public becomes fully white-cane conscious. That the law will not be "more highly honored in the breach than in the observance," it is, therefore, suggested and urged that each *Light* reader should appoint himself a committee of one to inform others of the measure to that end.

Motorists! Pedestrians! Observe this law to protect the lives of the blind persons on the streets and highways. Remember, they want to get somewhere, the same as you do. They have less than one chance to your thousand, of getting to their destination safely and on time. Sometimes, you may have to hurry; so do the blind pedestrians. Many are the delays, pitfalls, obstacles and dangers confronting them, which you never dream of.

And suppose you are obliged to stop your car on the highway or street, to give the right-of-way to a blind person. Or, Mr. Pedestrian, suppose you are obliged to step to one side or halt, until that courageous blind person goes by! Remember, you can make up that lost time easier than the blind pedestrian, waiting fearfully for you to pass, not knowing exactly his danger or advantages. Likely, you do not know that when you cause a blind pedestrian to swerve from his course, you upset his bearing and cause him trouble.

And, more important than all, your halting, your observance of the white cane tipped in red, may save his life or prevent him from being crippled, who is struggling against greater odds to get somewhere and to do something than you ever dreamed of. He would

give anything in the world, and the right-of-way to you on the highways and streets, if only he had the physical sight you possess and which he would like to have you exercise in behalf of the blind, by observing California's White Cane Law.

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### WHEN WRITING YOUR CONGRESSMAN

#### DO . . .

- spell his name correctly.
- make sure whether he is a Senator or a Representative.
- state concisely what you think and why; the briefer, the better.
- subordinate your self-interest.
- be sure of your facts.
- cite specific illustrations, whenever possible, as to effects proposed legislation would have on business and workers in your community.
- write on your business stationery.
- sign your name plainly. Type it under the signature.
- send a letter rather than a telegram when time permits.
- seize every opportunity to become personally acquainted with your Congressman.

#### DON'T . . .

- threaten political reprisals.
- write in a captious or belligerent mood.
- remind your Congressman of broken promises.
- attempt to speak for anybody but yourself.
- send a chain letter or postcard.
- quote from form letters.
- write only when you want a favor. Letters of commendation are always welcome.
- try to make an errand boy out of your Congressman.
- become a chronic letter writer.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
HELEN McWILLIAMS, Associate Editor

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## *The Right*

Right makes might but might is never necessarily right. History, since time began, confirms this truism. History, to the end of eternity, will confirm it. The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, teaches this philosophy. It was a reality to the prophets. Christ Jesus and His disciples, and His followers for three hundred years after Calvary, proved it to be true without cavil, for themselves and others, by practical demonstrations.

The Patrick Henrys, the Washingtons, Jeffersons, Lincolns, Roosevelts, Churchills, and all truly great leaders, virtually live by this philosophy and embody it in all their public utterances and policies.

But obviously, this philosophy was entirely foreign to the Caesars, the Napoleons and the Hohenzollerns. Neither do the Schicklgrubers, Mussolinis, the Tojos and the Hirohitos know anything about such philosophy.

Significantly enough, the theory that right makes for might and never can be overthrown, also was a reality to Victor Hugo, a great Frenchman whose writings and philosophy have stirred many readers to a better life. Under the caption used above, he at one time

penned the following words for posterity's assurance and guidance:

"Ah, Whether you will it or not, the past is passed. Your law is null, void and dead, even before its birth; because it is not just; because it is not true; because, while it goes furtively to plunder the poor man and the weak of his right of suffrage, it encounters the withering glance of a Nation's probity and sense of right, before which your work of darkness shall vanish; because, in the depths of the conscience of every citizen,—of the humblest as well as the highest, there is a sentiment sublime, sacred, indestructible, incorruptible, eternal,—the Right.

\* "This sentiment, which is the very element of reason in man, the granite of the human conscience,—this Right is the Rock upon which shall split and go to pieces the iniquities, the hypocrisies, the bad laws, and bad governments of the world. There is the obstacle, concealed, invisible, lost to view in the soul's profoundest deep, but eternally present and abiding, against which you shall always strive, and which you shall never wear away, do what you will! I repeat it, your efforts are in vain. You cannot deracinate, you cannot shake it. You might sooner tear up the eternal Rock from the bottom of the sea than the Right from the heart of the people!"

Keeping these things in mind, who can doubt for a moment that this global war will end in a victory of "unconditional surrender" for the United Nations?

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit," saith He who doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. "And none can stay His



hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?"



### Library Removal

The Braille Institute Library which, for several years, has been located at 656-58 North Vermont Avenue, will be moved on or about May 1, to 721 North Vermont Avenue.

The move is necessitated in order to meet the expanding needs of the Library for greater space. A three-year lease has been negotiated for the building which is fully adequate to meet the increasing demands for that length of time. The new location affords other advantages, its closer proximity to the Institute's headquarters being one of them.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc. Library is one of the 27 regional libraries in the United States which distribute books and magazines in Braille and Moon types and on sound reproduction records, styled "talking-books", for the Library of Congress. Its assigned territory is California and Arizona.

Although the government furnishes the bulk of the literature circulated, the entire operating and maintenance cost of the Library, now approximating \$10,000 a year, is borne by the Braille Institute. The service is entirely free. By special Act of Congress several years ago, such literature is transported through the mails, free of postage, to and from the blind borrowers.



### Radio Service

For several years we have been furnishing radio repair service free to the blind unable to pay all or even a portion of the cost. Radios have been and still are being furnished free whenever obtainable, to those who cannot afford to purchase.

This service also includes repairs on sound reproduction machines, styled "talking books", which are loaned to the blind by the United States Government. "Phonographic books" would be a more appropriate name for these machines, which are especially built to accommodate long-playing phonographic records on which books and magazines are recorded for the use of the blind who may find the mastery of Braille reading difficult. Under this plan, the government furnishes the parts that need to be replaced and the Braille Institute, the engineering and labor.

Contributors, members and friends of the Braille Institute, and *Light* readers, are invited to advise their blind friends of this service.



### Federal Legislation

On January 6, 1943, Representative Graham Barden of North Carolina introduced a bill known as H. R. 699, to provide vocational rehabilitation education, training, and other services to persons disabled while members of the armed forces, or disabled in war industries or through other causes, or congenitally disabled, and to render such persons fit for service in war industries, agriculture, or other useful civilian industry, and for other purposes.

A companion bill to H. R. 699, known as S. 180, was immediately introduced into the Senate by Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin. The Senate later voted to discontinue consideration of this bill. Thereupon, Senator LaFollette introduced another bill, known as S. 838, which is identical with S. 180, except for Title I, which was deleted. Title I in both H. R. 699 and S. 180 was the



## MISS MARIANNE GARVER

The Braille Institute trustees, officers, administrative staff members, department heads and all employees generally, deeply regret, in the spirit of profound sorrow, the passing from this mortal plane of their loyal co-worker and esteemed friend, Miss Marianne Garver, at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Frank T. Thompson, in Piedmont, California, March 29.

Miss Garver was born in Chillicothe, Mo., where she graduated from high school and later from the Chillicothe Commercial College. Thereafter, her first position in the business and professional world was an official post of trust and importance with the Federal Government in Washington, D. C., soon after our entrance into World War I. Resigning her position in Washington following the Armistice, she eventually found her way to California where she has resided ever since.

Miss Garver became a member of the Braille Institute's administrative staff on January 1, 1933, and served in one capacity or another, until January 1, 1943, when she felt the need of temporary rest and retirement. For the greater part of those 10 years, Miss Garver filled the offices of Executive Secretary of the Braille Institute, serving also as Associate Editor of "The Braille Mirror", and of "Light", respectively. She was also active on the Institute's public relations bureau, giving of her time and talents unselfishly as luncheon and after dinner speaker before men's and women's social and civic clubs, various church groups and hospital organizations. Whatever her assignment, she accepted the task graciously, attacked the job intelligently and accomplished it efficiently to her own credit and that of the Braille Institute.



Many executives engaged in welfare work for the blind, especially the members of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, who attended the Association's 18th biennial convention, held in Los Angeles in 1939, with the Braille Institute as host, will recall Miss Garver's courtesy and ability in discharging her duties as the Institute's executive secretary during the convention week. We feel sure they will lament her passing as an irreparable loss, as will her many friends with whom she associated in church work and in various social and civic clubs and organizations with which she was actively affiliated. Among her activities in these fields of social and civic betterment, Miss Garver served a term as President of the "Quota Club", Los Angeles Chapter. An arduous worker, capable, loyal, sincere, honest, with an exceptional regard for justice and fair play, her vacant post in society and on the Braille Institute's staff is one not easily filled.



# MEMORIALIZING THE HORSE

All honor to the Montana Cowboys Association for their courageous action recently in passing a resolution condemning the killing of horses for meat. The writer is proud to be a member of that Association and to list among its members as his friends, many old-timers with whom he rode the range as a cowboy, beginning forty years ago.

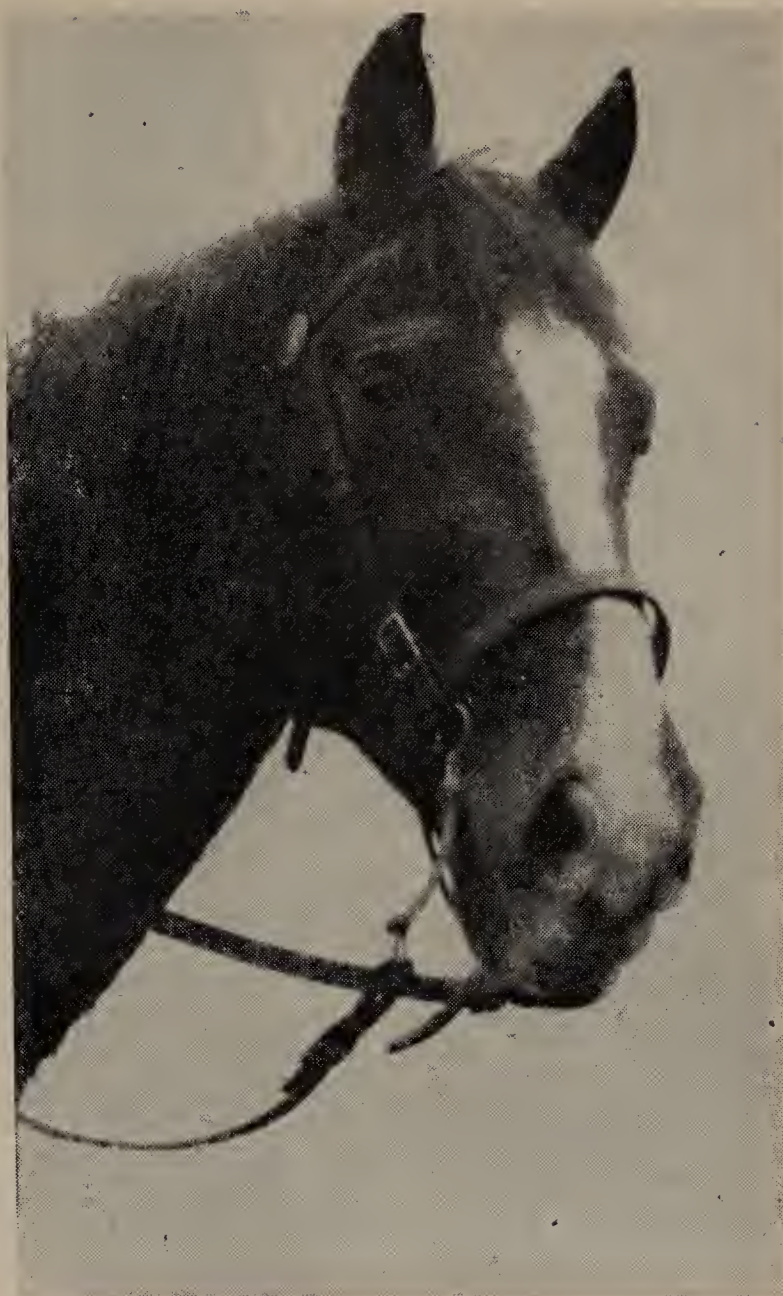
Next to the faithful dog, if not first, in fact, the noble horse is a man's best friend, almost human in sentiment and understanding. The late Charles M. Russell, Montana's cowboy artist, whom the writer is also proud to list as an intimate friend, used to say that any good horse would be as close a companion to his master as a dog, but for the fact that man and horse seldom live as close together. Many a cowboy could recite instances when, accidentally injured and alone on the open range, his faithful horse refused to leave him and, in some cases, by instinct, maneuvered in a way that brought the needed help.

The resolution in question is so timely and appropriate in the trend of these times as to be of interest to all lovers of the faithful horse, and is quoted here:

*"Whereas, there is a nationwide movement on foot to slaughter horses and to dispose of the meat for human consumption, after the horse had proved himself to have been one of the greatest benefactors of mankind, in the building of our great commonwealth, and*

*"Whereas, had it not been for the horse, this great state of ours might still be unsettled and undeveloped, and*

*"Whereas, the members of the Montana Cowboys Association did depend for years upon the horse as their chief means of transportation and livelihood and knew their very existence depended upon the horse in a bleak and unsettled*



AND HIS NAME IS SANDY  
A sorrel with hindstocking leg,  
owned by Bob Atkinson

*country, they came to love the horse for his faithfulness to man, his indomitable courage and his wonderful endurance in wresting triumph from what would otherwise be hopeless defeat,*

*"Now, Therefore, Be it resolved that the Montana Cowboys Association goes on record as being opposed to any movement that would in any way injure or kill horses, or to use the meat from horses for human consumption in times of meat shortages or otherwise, and brands any movements to the contrary, as kin to barbarism and against the principles of said Association."*

With the true horseman, or the true humanitarian, the spirit and purpose of

*Continued in Column 2, Page 14*



## HONORED VISITORS

The accompanying photograph shows A. C. Ellis (left), Superintendent of the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky, and Harold A. Lynch (center), Associate Editor of the Reader's Digest, in the office of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., visiting with the Managing Director.



For fourteen years, the Braille edition of the Reader's Digest has been published by the Louisville institution. More recently, since the advent of literature on sound reproduction records, styled "talking books", an edition of the Reader's Digest has also been recorded and published in that form at the Louisville plant, under Mr. Ellis' supervision.

Mr. Lynch and Mr. Ellis are making a rather extensive trip throughout the Nation, for the purpose of acquainting themselves with various phases of work for the blind, educational and otherwise, and of what the blind, themselves, are doing towards self-support in both war industry and private enterprise.

In commenting on the trip, Mr. Ellis said that both he and Mr. Lynch had been somewhat encouraged to note the "surprising number of varied activities now engaged in by the blind", and that wherever they found blind employees at work, all of their employers spoke commendably of their ability to produce on a standard equal to that of other workmen not physically handicapped.

In fact, employers generally are enthusiastic over the ability and accuracy of these blind employees who, in all cases, seem happy and grateful that at last they have found a chance to show what they can do. They are particularly grateful that they are doing something towards winning the war.

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### MEMORIALIZING THE HORSE

*Continued from Page 13*

the foregoing resolution will strike a responsive chord, as will, also, the sentiment of the following lines, penned by the writer for use in a book he is preparing:

"Live close to a horse and you'll be kinder;  
Learn his language and you'll speak no guile;  
Emulate his attributes and you'll be nobler;  
Follow his instinct and you'll be safer;  
Find his source of knowledge and you'll be wiser—  
You'll find that horse sense is the gift of God, an endowment few men of letters ever possess."

J. R. A.



# AIR WORKERS' BLIND WELFARE GIFT

On Friday, April 9th, the Lockheed-Vega Buck-of-the-Month Club generously presented to the Braille Institute of America, Inc. a check for the amount of \$1,000, to be applied to the further development of its welfare work among the blind.

The presentation was made by Frank M. Arrico, Chairman of the Lockheed-Vega Buck-of-the-Month Club. Arthur L. Sonderegger, treasurer of the Institute accepted the gift in behalf of its blind beneficiaries.

The Club is composed of employees only, membership being optional, and representatives of the company appear only in an advisory capacity. Its activities are philanthropic in nature, for recently it has contributed

substantially to the American Red Cross, Community Chest, Children's Hospital and Orthopaedic Foundation.

These contributions indicate clearly the good that can be accomplished for mankind through the collective giving plan, adopted by the Club.

As the Braille Institute of America, Inc. is dependent entirely upon voluntary contributions from the public, bequests and gifts from benevolent persons for funds with which to carry on its many welfare activities, its



Frank M. Arrico (left), presenting \$1000 check to Arthur L. Sonderegger (right). Mr. Atkinson looks on.

*L. A. Times Photo*

Board of Trustees feel deeply grateful to Lockheed-Vega's Buck-of-the-Month Club for this very substantial gift.

In these chaotic times, when welfare funds are so greatly needed by all philanthropic agencies, a gift of this proportion is especially helpful.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

*Continued from Page 11*

title for the care, training, aftercare and rehabilitation of the blinded veterans of the present war. The deletion was at the request of the Veterans' Bureau, which preferred to have the blinded veterans included in its legislation for disabled veterans generally, through a bill known as the Walsh-Clark bill, S. 786. Incidentally, this bill has already been enacted, the President

having signed the bill on March 24.

The foregoing bill, S. 838, seems more satisfactory than any of the bills previously considered for the civilian blind. It recognizes the State agencies for the blind, and requires the Federal Government to function through them, not only with respect to rehabilitation training, but also in carrying out the other vocational rehabilitation activi-

*Continued on Page 17*



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## INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

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*St. Dunstan's for Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London, England.—In September of 1942, Lt. Col. Sir Ian Fraser made a generous announcement to the Committee on the Care, Training and After-Care of the War-Blinded, which Committee was originated by the American Association of Workers for the Blind. He stated that he intended offering to the United States Administration all the facilities of St. Dunstan's for members of the United Nations' forces, blinded in action, while awaiting transportation to their home country. No reimbursement, he added, would be required in view of the generosity already shown Britain by the United States, but he did express a hope that America would assist British soldiers similarly situated.

The Committee recommended grateful acceptance of this offer, but proposed reasonable compensation for such services. Recently, Sir Fraser announced that the first American guest, an upper turret gunner, blinded in action, is already in residence. St. Dunstan's now has units in Cairo, India and South Africa.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind*, Boston, Mass.—Perkins has made extensive and thorough preparations at Watertown where the School and Office of Administration are located, to organize and function in instant readiness for any war emergency. Places for air raid shelter were selected in underground tunnels, which afford unusually splendid protection because of their concrete construction.

The pupils were drilled so that they are able to go swiftly and directly to the shelters.

Several classes are conducted at the organization relating to defense and war programs. Not all efforts have been expended toward self-protection, for the girls have learned to knit sweaters and sew on specified articles, and the boys have made over 75 standard collapsible stretchers. The students have also taken an active interest in the gathering of scrap, to the extent of 3 tons of metal and 11 tons of paper. This was sold and the money invested in War Bonds.

\* \* \*

*New York Association for the Blind*, New York City.—An event of unusual interest was the recent presentation of a series of plays at the Lighthouse Little Theatre by the Lighthouse Players, a group of blind actresses. Included in the list were the following well-known plays: "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals", by James M. Barrie; "Sunday Costs Five Pesos", by Josephine Niggli; and "The Witch", by Ferenc Molnar. This event marked the 17th Annual Benefit performance of the Players, many of whom are employed through the day in offices and industry. None are novices and many are former actresses of splendid background and experience. The Advisory Committee includes Miss Cornelia Otis Skinner, Mrs. Florenz Ziegfeld, Mr. Arthur Hopkins and Mr. Grant Mitchell. Numbered among the Patronesses are Mrs. Walter Damrosch, Mrs. Marshall Field, Mrs. Daniel Guggenheim and Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting.



*Society for the Relief of the Destitute Blind*, New York City.—Mrs. Margaret Steward, Chairman of the Board of Managers, who rounded out twenty years in that position recently, reports a fine spirit of patriotism evinced by the people in the Home. She says that the women are busily engaged in knitting for the Red Cross, United Service Organization, and the Citizens' Committee for the Army, Navy and Marines.

Air raid drills have been instituted and at a recent practice alarm, several air raid wardens present expressed themselves as more than satisfied with the calmness and speed with which the blind assembled themselves, and the manner in which the infirmary and elderly patients were moved to zones of safety.

\* \* \*

*American Foundation for the Blind*, New York City.—This organization recently sponsored an interesting demonstration, that of a "bill detector", the invention of a young blind Canadian, George Lafleur, to enable blind salesmen to determine the denomination of paper currency. When operated, the machine gives different electric buzzes which indicate the denomination of the bill. It is estimated that this device can be produced commercially at a cost of \$25.00 a set. The "bill detector" is operated on the same principle as the idea used for an audio scale, originated by blind Evelyn Watson of Buffalo, N. Y., described in the last issue of *Light*. The Foundation was the sponsor of the audio scale, also. These two inventions by two resourceful blind individuals will be a determining factor in making possible increased employment of blind workers.

\* \* \*

*National Institute for the Blind*, Lon-

don, England.—The Institute has acquired a fifth Sunshine Home for Blind Babies, to accommodate a waiting list which has been steadily increasing. It is located at Broad Oak, Northwood, Middlesex, and the house is ideal for the purpose, being large, well-ventilated and surrounded by a pleasant garden.

In addition to opening the Home for Blind Babies, and maintaining and operating several other Homes on the coast, the Institute has secured a house to be used as an Emergency Home to which residents of the other Homes, facing evacuation, might be moved at short notice. The new home, Fair Lawn, Totteridge Lane, Totteridge, has already served for one emergency, when Bannow, the Convalescent and Holiday Home of the Institute, was damaged.

Miss Swann, matron at Bannow, severely injured in the air raid, is reported to have made a remarkable recovery and is now located at Fair Lawn, with others of the former Bannow staff.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

*Continued from Page 15*

ties, such as restoration of sight, the supplying of special devices, etc. In all except training, the Federal Government will meet the entire cost, including the cost of administration.

As *Light* goes to press, H. R. 699 has not yet been reported out of Committee, but since Title I has been deleted, undoubtedly, when the House Committee reports H. R. 699, it will probably be found to be identical, or nearly identical, to the new S. 838.

*Light* readers, and their friends, who are interested in passage of H. R. 699 and S. 838, should write immediately to their representatives and senators, urging them to do everything within their power to support the measure.

Staff Correspondent.



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

---

The youthful blind seem in the spotlight this month as various accounts of their different achievements come to our attention. Little thirteen year old Barbara Joyce Davis of Memphis, Tennessee, who has been called the "Helen Keller girl", is making steady strides toward normal living. She was only a baby of three when an attack of spinal meningitis left her deaf and blind. As a lingering effect of the disease, she was unable to talk for a time and then she had to learn anew. Encased in a wall of silence, the little girl "listens" by laying her finger tips on the speaker's lips, and learns to speak by imitating the throat vibrations of her teachers, learning in the past two years, two hundred words. Recently, it appeared as though her courageous struggle against a world without sight or sound would come to a standstill, for the money set aside for her education ran out. But kindly Memphis folk oversubscribed \$1,500, for although only \$1,000 was requested, \$2,500 poured in immediately. And little, blue-eyed, smiling Barbara Joyce is once more definitely assured of her chance.



Just seventeen, and blind since she was a tiny baby of six months, Elsie Mirkovich of St. Paul, Minnesota, is entering what promises to be a musical career of note. Daughter of a railroad section hand and one of several children, there was never much money for educational advantages. Only two years ago she began the composition of popular music, but she has become a composer of such merit as to attract the notice of prominent musicians.

Just last Christmas, her brother and three sisters gave her a \$30 piano. Since then, she has worked constantly, and the superintendent of the State School for the Blind at Faribault, Minnesota, was so impressed that he arranged an audition with officials of KSTP, an important radio station at St. Paul. The president of the station, Stanley Hubbard, took transcriptions of her work to New York and, as a result, upon his return, was able to hand her a contract with the Broadcast Music, Inc., radio publishing firm, for all of her music. Recently, came her evening of triumph. On the Municipal Auditorium stage in St. Paul, she sat before her piano, after playing three arrangements of her own, and listened happily to the applause and cheers of 5,000, standing in tribute to her remarkable talent and indomitable will.



Young Josephine Atanasio of New York City had a real liking for commercial work and saw no reason that lack of physical sight should deter her. She especially wanted to master the Dictaphone, so she confronted difficulties that necessarily arose by solving each one practically. For instance, on Dictaphone slips, which indicate the length of the letter by a pencil mark, a ticket punch is used which is equipped with embossing die, to mark the pencil indications for her. And when carbon copies of letters are to be sent to a salesman, branch manager or official, she runs over a case of Braille cards bearing the name, location and office of each, and selects swiftly and accurately the right ones.



Miss Atanasio has been steadily employed by the Dictograph Corporation since 1941 and the other girls recently frankly admitted that she sets such a high standard for accuracy that they have some difficulty in upholding it.

★

A musician who is thoroughly familiar with his instrument is blind Joseph Gerecitano, of Brooklyn, New York. A pianist of enviable talent, he is much sought after as entertainer in clubs and cafes. That is not his only activity, however, for he is equally skilled in piano tuning and has built up a large clientele. With two vocations, he is kept very busy and has been able to provide a pleasant home for his wife and himself. His full and active life leaves little to be desired, according to Mr. Gerecitano.

★

In Los Angeles, California, nine years ago, an ambitious, young cam-

eraman suddenly lost his sight. With a wife and small son dependent upon him, young Martin Glouner lost no time in vain regret or bitterness. The "here and now" required that something be done. After a couple of false starts in selling, Mr. Glouner purchased a small news stand in the downtown area. Four years ago, through the friends he had made, he was offered the exclusive rights to the news service at the new Federal Building. And he says that he recognizes, by their voices, a great majority of the 11,000 people who daily pass his stand. He adds, "The sound of their voices and their cheery greetings each day bring me happiness enough." This stand is similar to many hundred that are now being operated by blind licensees in Federal buildings throughout the Nation, under the Randolph-Sheppard Law. Recently, Mr. Glouner had the pleasure of learning that he has been selected by the California Department of Social Welfare as one of the outstanding examples of rehabilitation among the blind of the State.

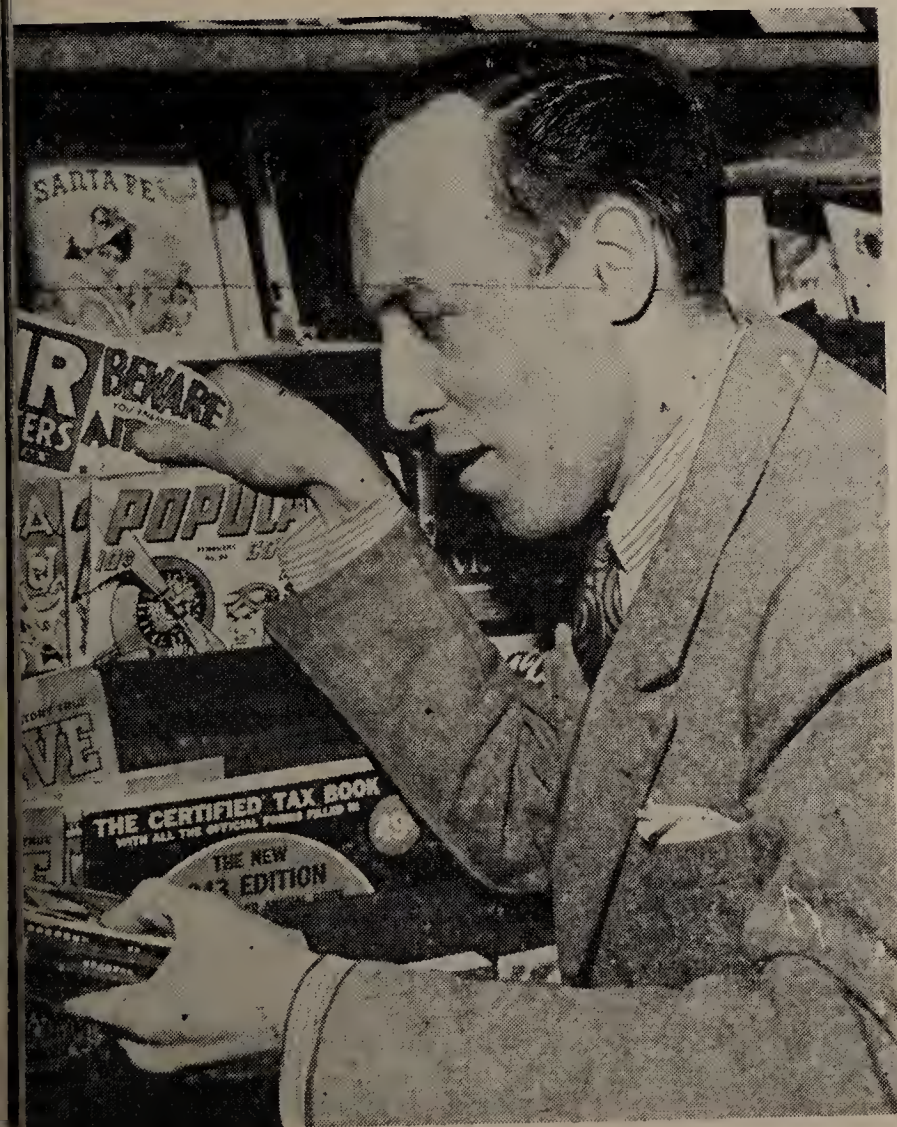
## ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRaille INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus, 34 x 4 (cells)	\$2.00
#1 Braille Pocket Slate and Stylus, 27 x 4 (cells)	1.10
#2 Braille Slate and Stylus, Postcard size, 19 x 6 (cells)	1.10
Hill Metal Writing Guide (for longhand writing), with Instruction Sheet	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing)	Postpaid .15
Braille paper, Sunset Tympan, 75#, 9 x 12, per pound	.17
Braille paper, roll Manila, 9 x 12, per pound	.15
American Red Cross Braille Paper, 100 sheets	.45
Standard Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)	Postpaid .15
Playing Cards, Brailled	.75 and 1.00
Braille Dominoes, interlocking	1.00
Checkerboard and Men	.75

ITEMS NOT MARKED "POSTPAID" ARE SUBJECT TO POSTAGE CHARGE AND SALES TAX IN CALIFORNIA



MARTIN GLOUNER BEFORE HIS NEWSSTAND  
—Photograph courtesy Los Angeles Times



# OPPORTUNITY...

The welfare activities of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as set forth on the following page, are broad enough to meet the social and economic needs of the blind and partially blind in every walk of life.

They are maintained to the extent funds make possible without respect to race, color or creed.

**With no assistance from the community chest of Los Angeles, with no governmental aid, State or Federal, and with limited endowments to date, the Institute must look to voluntary contributions of the public, and to its membership dues, for the maintenance of these activities.**

The opportunity to help the blind, where help is most needed, administered by an institution, efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the problems of the physically blind, is always available through the activities of the Braille Institute.

Yearly contributions of monthly pledges, large or small, or an application for any one of the memberships listed on the following page, will help more than may be imagined.

*In addition, the charitably inclined are assured that their benevolence will help the blind in future years by naming the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as a beneficiary in wills or insurance policies.*

.....

Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles

I am glad to avail myself of the opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$.....

to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the  
Braille Institute of America, Inc., Los  
Angeles, California

(Insert description of money or  
property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the  
corporation.

### FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is after-  
wards desired to make a gift or bequest to the  
Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be  
sufficient if the form below is filled in, and  
signed by the testator in the presence of two  
witnesses, who also, at the request of the tes-  
tator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the  
testator and in the presence of each other. This  
codicil should then be carefully attached to  
the existing will.

#### CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and  
Testament of....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE  
INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Ange-  
les, California, for the general purposes of the  
corporation, the sum of.....(or a de-  
scription of any property, real or personal).

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my  
hand this.....day of....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the <sup>testator</sup>  
<sup>testatrix</sup> as and for a Codicil to  
<sup>his</sup>  
<sup>her</sup> last Will dated.....in the presence  
(Date of Will)

of us, both present at the same time, who at <sup>his</sup>  
<sup>her</sup> request and in <sup>his</sup>  
<sup>her</sup> presence, and in the pres-  
ence of each other, have hereunto set our  
names as witnesses.

....., residing at.....

....., residing at.....

*Buy . . .*

**WAR BONDS**

*and . . .*

**STAMPS ..Now!**

## UNITED PRINTING COMPANY

*Printers*

430 Boyd Street

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Los Angeles

Sales

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**BOB C. SCHAEFER**

RADIO

RECORDERS

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2829

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Installations



# ACTIVITIES

1) Social Welfare—work with local blind, and in some cases with the blind in other localities, having to do with personal adjustment problems created by blindness, including the donation of appliances or free services when necessary.

2) Home Teaching—free instruction in reading and writing raised print (Braille and Moon Type) and typewriting.

3) Business Guidance — consultation and other services, including business loans, to the employable blind and the sponsorship of vocational literature.

4) Library Service — free circulation of books in raised print and talking book records to the blind of California and Arizona.

5) Literature — sponsorship of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay, including the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille.

6) Research—the development of appliances for the blind; consultation and other services to blind individuals and organizations.

7) Operation of a printing department — on a non-commercial basis — for the publication of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types sponsored by the Braille Institute or by other agencies.



# MEMBERSHIPS

The activities the Braille Institute sponsors for the social and economic welfare of the blind are sustained through voluntary contributions of the public, bequests and membership dues, as follows:

Patron	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$5.00
Supporting	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10.00
Contributing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25.00
Associate	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50.00
Sustaining	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100.00
Life	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000.00

Membership applications will be mailed on request. Those who may not care to become members can assist by contributing any amount, large or small. Such contributions may be specified as for a definite activity.

Contributions and membership fees are deductible from Income Tax.



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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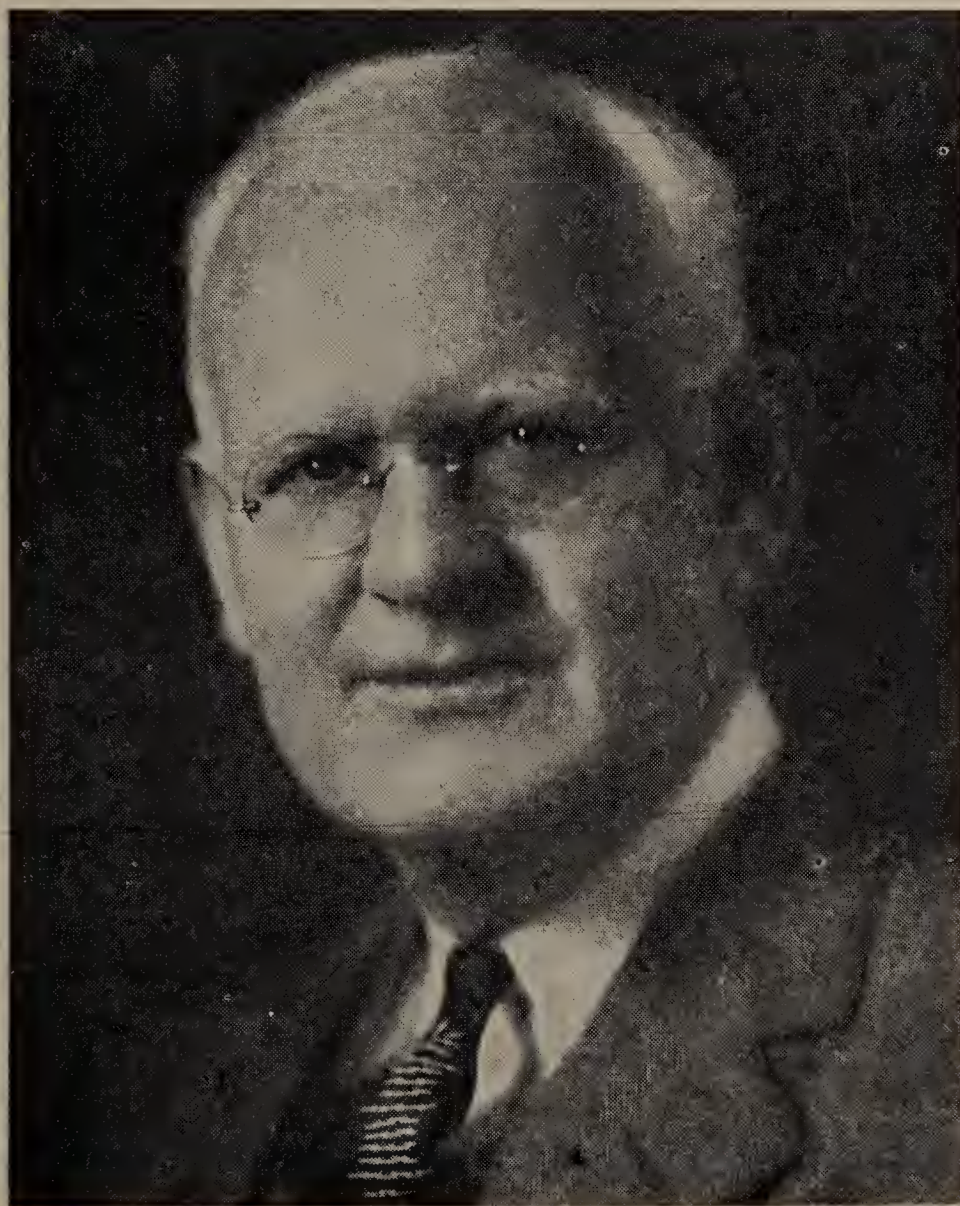
Vol. XV, No. 4

July, 1943



## THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT PETER BUILT

By JAMES H. COLLINS



Peter J. Salmon, founder and president of the Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, New York; president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

**I**F ever there was a story about a young fellow taking hold of a run-down business, and by determination and salesmanship building it up,

with little to work on—then the story of Peter J. Salmon, and the Industrial Home for the Blind, in Brooklyn, is that kind of story.



Only, it wasn't a rundown business.

Because it had never really been wound up.

Out on Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, a quarter-century ago, stood a dingy frame store that had never succeeded either, as a shop. There, an idealist and dreamer had pioneered in helping the blind help themselves. But he hadn't got far with details, like raising money, selling goods, running a factory.

This pioneer was Eben P. Morford, and Peter Salmon was just the man he needed to put a foundation under an air-castle. To the day of Mr. Morford's death, twelve years later, they were close friends and co-workers.

It was 1917, and young Salmon had begun to wonder whether there was any work for him in life.

A Down-East Yankee, growing up in Hudson, Massachusetts, educated at the Perkins Institute, Boston, because he had very limited vision, his ambition was to become a teacher of deaf-blind children, and in this he was encouraged by the director of the institute, Dr. Edward Allen.

But on graduation, he had to have a job, and when he was tried at window-washing in the Boston "L" yards, he was laid off because he couldn't see to get the windows clean; and when, after that, he got a job tuning pianos in the Worcester public schools—

It seemed far from the kind of work he had wanted to do, and he thought Dr. Allen had forgotten him, until one day a letter came, asking him to travel to New York, where there was a job with the New York Association for the Blind.

What a thrill!

He stood in front of this Brooklyn work shop, and for a moment was downcast. That was the alluring job—

and it seemed to have lost its gilding.

Then he opened the door, and went inside—and there was certainly nothing to be cheerful about, with the small force of blind men making brooms, and other articles, and the meagre equipment, and slender materials.

But the original tin peddler was a Down-East Yankee.

So Salmon started by shouldering a bundle of brooms, and going out to sell them. Pounding the pavements, climbing stairs to loft factories, he got customers. He collected money, and started a trickle of life through the place. And more than that, he learned what kind of brooms his customers wanted, and saw that the production department would need improvements.

Presently he was running a small but efficient factory, teaching workers, buying materials, keeping accounts. Everything coming in went for enlargement of production. Little money was available from the association of that day.

The front of the building badly needed a coat of new bright paint. No appropriation was obtainable. So he and Harold Brown, the shop superintendent, did the job themselves on a Saturday.

Before he had been there long, he adopted a motto for the place, "Helping the blind to help themselves."

In ten years, the old frame shop was replaced with two modern buildings, and a new board of trustees, inspired by George B. Case, was giving the financial support needed by an enterprise that could never be entirely self-supporting.

That was Peter Salmon's first period, and the second began in 1928, when the sales department of the business faced ruin through competition of prison-



made goods, sold below any prices that could be met by people working for wages—even the modest wages of the blind.

That led him beyond his local enterprise, and into the larger work of state and national agencies.

With a committee made up of American Federation of Labor, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and a group of manufacturers affected by prison-made goods, he went to Washington. There he helped get the Senate to pass the Hawes-Cooper Bill restricting the sale of prison-made goods in interstate commerce.

And also made a friend of J. V. Bennett, now head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Bennett initiated Salmon into the ways of Washington bureaus, and Salmon interested Bennett in the problems of the self-supporting blind. Bennett has since been constantly helpful in work for the blind all over the country.

His Washington experience taught Salmon that blind folks' problems were interlinked and national.

And impressed upon him the fact that those unseen but influential people who make up American public opinion were always sympathetic to causes like self-help for the blind—but that you had to tell the public what you want to do, before you can line it up back of your project.

To tell the story of a work shop for the blind in Brooklyn, you needed co-ordination of all the work going on roundabout, and in fact in the Nation—then a tide of sympathetic interest was created which flowed in to your local enterprise.

Salmon began to take such an active part in general organization work that he was made president of the New York State Federation of Workers for the

Blind; co-ordinated the nineteen New York City agencies into a chapter of that organization; saw it grow into the Greater New York Council of Agencies for the Blind; became its president in 1938; joined hands with broom manufacturers to get preference for the blind in Federal and state broom purchasing; saw a long series of moves, backed by public understanding, result in the Wagner-O'Day Act, and the formation of the National Industries for the Blind.

In a word, as the original Yankee broom peddler, he pounded the American public as he had pounded pavements, and got bigger results.

Recognizing Salmon's outstanding ability as an executive, his fellow workers, members of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, at their 39th biennial convention at Indianapolis, July, 1941, unanimously elected him as president for the biennium ending in 1943. This is the highest honor that can be paid to a blind executive in the United States and Canada for work well done.

Wide as this work has been, it never diverts him from his real job, his original job, landed twenty-six years ago—making a success of the Industrial Home for the Blind in Brooklyn.

In 1917, there were thirty-seven men working there, making \$36,000 worth of goods. Today, with two modern buildings at 520 Gates Avenue, and a new model plant at 1000 Atlantic Avenue, nearly two hundred men are employed, making a million dollars worth of products yearly—and for those products, a definite market, with customers won on quality and service, and repeating their orders.

Mr. Salmon has, over the years, acquired an intimate understanding of

*Continued on Page 19*



# BLIND MASTER MACHINE PRODUCTION

By J. H. McKAIN

**B**EFORE Pearl Harbor, you could always depend upon it that nearly two hundred blind folks were waiting for jobs at the Industrial Work Shop for the Blind, in Los Angeles.

For out of 8,000 blind persons in California, four-fifths are in the southern region, and at least 4,000 of them in Los Angeles.

There wasn't enough work to go around.

And that wasn't the worst of it, because the blind were supposed to be all right at caning chairs, and weaving baskets, but utterly incapable of operating machinery.

Today, the work shop has a night shift as well as a day shift, with 145 work-

ers employed, and badly needs more floor space.

They are not only running machines, but on assembly operations, with a big war contract for the armed forces.

And that isn't all—they have improved the assembly line, cutting out a couple of operations still performed in factories where sighted people make the same products.

Moreover, when this bloody business of war is over, they expect to go right on running machines, taking orders for peacetime products—Manager George H. Brown will tell you what they plan making, and has the machines to do it.

Finally, they have met the shortage problems in materials, and used their heads to find substitutes.

For example—before Pearl Harbor the basketry department made thousands of wicker market baskets or carts on wheels, sold by retail stores, to housewives who rolled their own. Cane for basketry came from the Orient. When war loomed, Mr. Brown laid in a big reserve of cane, and it has lasted well—but not for business as usual.

Upon suggestions developed among the blind workers themselves, a thousand of these baskets are now made monthly, with sides of Venetian blind



Herbert Long, blind, operating device for turning and inspecting pillow cases; George Brown and James H. Collins looking on.



slats, held together by cane. Even the wheels have rubber tires, made with stock on hand—they are not balloon tires, of course, but they are rubber, and smooth, and silent.

When retail store buyers discovered that wartime market basket, they placed orders enough to keep the place busy for months.

For it is not only Uncle Sam who has the orders these days — merchan-

dise buyers hunt high and low for little shops and overlooked small factories that can supply anything to sell. The blind have found ways to make other things of non-critical materials—upholstery for outdoor furniture without springs is one item.

The big contract today is pillow-cases for the armed forces—in June, the output was lifted to 200,000 pillow-cases monthly, nearly 8,000 daily, and here is where some operations were eliminated.

As the blind now make them, there are seven stages, against nine in other factories. The material comes in rolls, folded double, and is cut to size—Stage 1. It is machine sewed side and bottom—2. Then given a three-inch hem at the open end—3. Then turned for inspection—4 (pillow-cases have to be sewed wrong side out, of course). Then a gadget invented in the shop does the inspection, eliminating two operations, for the pillow-case is stretched between two spreaders, with springs, and blunt fingers, and if either the side or end seam is defective, the spreader fingers reveal the unsewed



Electric sewing machines in operation by blind operators on governmental contract for pillow-cases.

places. That's 5, and the other two operations are measuring for length, and packaging in dozen lots, for boxes containing 300 pillow-cases. They all go to military depots on the Pacific Coast, and this is the only pillow-case factory in the West.

It is chiefly this pillow-case contract that has proved the blind capable of learning machine operations, with speed and safety. The shop has seventy-five machines on that job, and everybody is on piece-work. A training department teaches each new worker an operation within his or her capacity, and after that the blind make better wages than they have ever earned before, and like it that way.

One proof that they can not only do it, but are pretty good at it, is the fact that direct war industries have taken away about fifty of the shop's best workers. They are not unhappy about this, because it shows that properly trained blind workers are capable of holding outside factory jobs. When requests come for blind workers, the shop picks the best to go, and trains others.



Manager Brown says that the pillow-case contract, and some other war work done on machines, like mattress-making and sleeping bags, has demonstrated the ability of blind people to do straight machine sewing.

Because hundreds of articles like pillow-cases, sheets and what-not, require only straight sewing, it is possible for the blind to stay in business after the war, provided they can get orders.

To get orders, they must meet the costs of other factories, and here they need just a little "edge" in help from the State, which is not charity, but economy with public funds.

This work shop belongs to the State, and if times are such that its products do not show a profit, the State meets some overhead expenses. Even then, many of the blind who would otherwise have to be supported are able to earn their own living.

And between a dole and a paycheck, no blind person is slow in making a decision—give him or her the paycheck, especially if there has been experience with the red tape, and supervision of the dole.

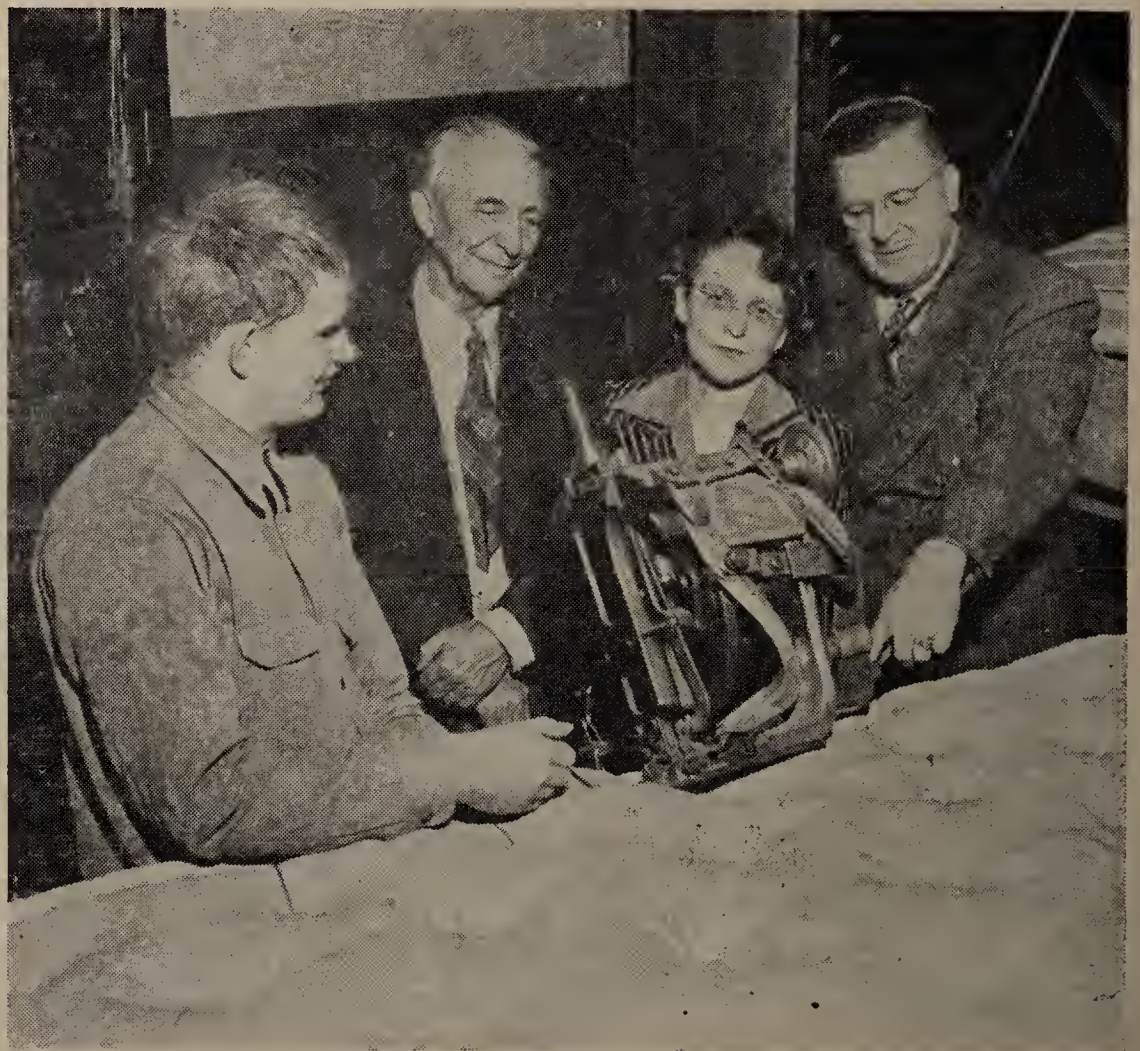
This year, according to estimates for the present orders and contracts in its seven departments, the work shop will do more than \$750,000 worth of business, and pay out \$192,000 to workers and staff.

For the first six months there was a

factory profit of \$12,997.78, which approximately reimburses the State for all money expended for plant support. Last year, the shop saved aid funds amounting to \$28,519, and should save much more in 1943. This was accomplished by co-operation with the Los Angeles County Welfare Department, Bureau of Rehabilitation, and United States Employment Service.

In military production, the shop is making pillow-cases, mattresses, mattress pads, mailing bags, and sleeping bags. For civilian customers it makes mattresses (many large orders for institutions), cot pads, outdoor furniture pads, pillows, brushes, fibre brooms, roving rugs, rag rugs, ironing-board pads and covers, wheeled market and other baskets, and leather goods like belts and wallets. It also re-canes chairs and renovates mattresses. Sew-

*Continued on Page 17*



George A. Brown, Work Shop superintendent, explaining how roll edges are formed on mattresses by power machine, to James H. Collins, reporter, and Miss Helen McWilliams, executive secretary of the Braille Institute. Herbert Olson, blind operator, at machine.



## "OUT OF THE DARK, NEW LIGHT"

CAN you imagine what it would be like to bake a cake in total darkness? How would you know when it was that beautiful golden brown that signifies that it is "just right" to take out? And then, there's the icing. Could you do that with your eyes closed?

There is one pretty, talented and resourceful homemaker in Los Angeles who can, and does. Young Evelyn Lee, blind since birth, does this and many, many more things equally difficult. Darkness to her does not mean caution to the extreme, tiptoeing and total dependence upon others. That she has never been and with the accomplishments she has to her credit, she will never be.

The occasion was a party and a dozen friends were there. But Mrs. Lee, alone, was competently cutting the cake, making and pouring the coffee. And, as she deftly made her way into the room with the refreshments arranged carefully and in orderly manner on her serving cart, there was no tenseness and breathlessness among the guests. Long acquaintance had taught them that their hostess was as capable and sure of her movements as any sighted housekeeper. There was no fumbling, nor spilling of coffee or crumbs. She served them graciously, confidently, all the while talking easily.

Mrs. Lee has not been content to let the matter rest there. Knowing the difficulties that confront a blind cook and homemaker, she has profited by her experiences. With a real and sympathetic desire to aid her sightless sisters, she has recently compiled a cook book which contains not only more than 500 recipes, tested by herself, but 259 practical suggestions that will prove



Evelyn Lee, blind housekeeper, testing recipe in her Cook Book.

—Photo courtesy L. A. Times.

invaluable to others who are necessarily forced to work in darkness.

Directions will be a bit different, because separating an egg is just separating an egg, for one with sight, but for them it is placing two substances of practically the same consistency in two containers, when they have been sealed in one.

With or without a gadget, Mrs. Lee considers separating an egg a simple matter. She has taken a short-cut for convenience by making a small hole in the large end of the egg and allowing the white to drain out, leaving the yolk, firm and intact, inside the shell.

That Evelyn Lee is systematic is shown by the particular and orderly arrangement of the contents of her newly written cook book, and borne out



by the immaculate manner in which she keeps her home. It is a home in every sense of the word, for she has achieved the gay, cheerful atmosphere that marks it as such. For instance about her kitchen colorful little flower holders, containing small plants or blossoms, are placed attractively. Supplies are arranged with an eye toward convenience. For instance, all staples have been marked for immediate identification by Mrs. Lee, with Braille labels which she placed upon them directly upon their delivery.

Entering the living room, one is struck by the tasteful arrangement of the furniture and harmonious decorations. It is difficult to believe that the little homemaker has never seen color, for there is not a jarring note anywhere.

In one corner of the living room stands a cabinet, filled with many rare and beautiful miniatures of animals. These range from the inexpensive to those of costly china and fine porcelains. This is Mrs. Lee's hobby and began long ago, when she tried to satisfy her desire to know what they looked like. Someone gave her a small china animal, after vainly endeavoring to describe to the curious, sightless child exactly how it appeared. That solved the difficulty and what was more natural but that she immediately wanted another, to learn just how some other animal "looked". This resulted in the

very fine collection she has today. In fact, the fame of the cabinet has spread until the "Hobby Lobby" radio program heard of it and sent a representative to interview Mrs. Lee, inviting her to appear on the program.

Her interests are boundless. She saw no reason why she should not be able to sew, just as other housewives do. But, in order to do it independently and be able to work, alone in her home, necessitated threading the needle herself. A less courageous girl might have thought, "Well, that's one thing I can't do." But not Evelyn. She gets around that very difficult obstacle, alone and unaided, by the method of threading her needle with tongue and teeth, and in a minimum amount of time, putting in as fine and even stitching as any of her sighted friends.

She does not have the assistance of anyone in the home with physical vision, for her husband, Cecil Lee, proof-reader at the Braille Institute of America, Inc., is also blind. They love music and, both possessing voices of unusual clearness, often oblige their friends by singing duets. Parties at their home lack nothing. There are no awkward gaps, for this efficient, sightless pair have everything planned and proceed to carry it out with customary, normal assurance.

Cecil's courage is a match for Evelyn's and, together, they have worked out their problem in a thoroughly satisfactory manner to themselves.





# EVELYN LEE'S COOK BOOK

*In Braille, Grade One and a Half*

*Edited by*

MARIAN MANNERS

*Food Editor for the Los Angeles Times*

WITHIN recent years there have been several ink-print cook books reprinted in Braille by authors whose recognition in the culinary arts is such as to commend them as worthy works on cookery.

Then why publish another cook book in Braille, you ask?

The Braille Institute of America has sponsored the publication of Evelyn Lee's Cook Book in Braille, Grade One and a Half, because it feels that here is a work, selected and compiled as it was, by a practical blind housekeeper, which is especially adaptable to the needs of sightless cooks.

There are many advantages in this book for the blind housekeeper over other cook books, reprinted in Braille, included among which are 259 suggestions proved practical by an immaculate blind homemaker of exceptional ability as cook and housekeeper. These suggestions show ways and means, other than by physical sight, whereby the blind cook may learn how to prepare the foods in the mixing bowls. They show how to separate an egg, how to measure and weigh accurately and how to make use of leftovers. Special attention is directed to oven menus and one-dish meals which are popular with blind cooks.

Another advantage of importance is the arrangement of the recipes in two columns on a standard size Braille page. This makes it possible to start each ingredient on a new line, as is done in letter-press cook books, with-

out wasting much space. Directions for using all recipes are set forth in paragraph form. Both of these arrangements facilitate ready reference.

Each main dish has a suggested menu, and all recipes given on any menu can be found in the book easily, by referring to the Table of Contents, topically and alphabetically arranged. Evelyn Lee's book also devotes a section to the explanation of cookery terms commonly used.

We know of no other cook book which gives to sightless cooks the advantages and instruction in home economics that are available in this work. Indeed, the book should be within reach of every student of Domestic Science in the schools for the blind. Ordinary cook books usually use such expressions as these: "Leave in oven until a golden brown", or "cook custard until it coats the spoon", both of which are obviously beyond the ability of a sightless cook to determine. But, in her section in the front of the book, entitled "Kitchen Kross Kuts", forming 35 Braille pages, referred to in the recipes as "KKK", Evelyn Lee gives 259 practical suggestions of ways and means whereby the blind cook can perform with excellence and accuracy, without the use of physical eyes.

Owing to the technical problems involved in the production of this work, and the extra care entailed in its arrangement, including setting it up, two columns to the page, the plates have been rather costly to produce.

*Continued on Page 19*



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*Virginia Commission for the Blind*, Richmond, Va.—Mr. Cobrun L. Broun, who retired last June from the Bureau of Services of the Blind under the New York State Department of Social Welfare after thirteen years as Supervisor of Employment of the Blind, has recently been appointed Advisor in the Placement Department of the Commission. In addition to his work in employment and vocational guidance Mr. Broun has served the field of work for the blind in many capacities. He has held the office of vice-president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind and has participated in many committee activities. Mr. Broun is an alumnus of William and Mary College and is a native Virginian.

\* \* \*

*Industrial Work Shop for the Blind*, Los Angeles, Cal.—George Brown, manager of the Work Shop, reports that five of the workers, all totally blind, have recently taken up a course at the Frank Wiggins Trade School, learning to do specialized automobile repairing on certain parts of the machines. They expect to complete the course shortly and are exceedingly enthusiastic about it, having been advised that positions may be obtained which will mean economic independence during and after the war. Those taking the course are: Jack Smiley, George Bahey, Carl Carstensen, John Bauers and Dan Fontana.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's for Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London, Eng.—Major Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is organizer for St. Dunstan's has been asked by the Government of India, to

prepare post-war plans for welfare work among the civilian blind. That the Government has taken this action is a welcome sign that official interest is being taken in a problem that has for many years given great concern to workers for the blind in this country. Another problem which has specially concerned the Institute has been that of literature for India, and news that a special Government Committee has been set up to consider the possibility of a uniform Braille code was recently received with great satisfaction.

It is also reported that because accidents with stray dynamite detonators are so prevalent among South African children, thousands of dummy detonators have been prepared for demonstration purposes at the schools. This is the result of a campaign organized by the South African Council for the Blind, to prevent citizens losing their sight through the inexpert handling of explosives.

\* \* \*

*Industrial Home for the Adult Blind*, Oakland, Cal.—Ernest S. Leslie, Superintendent of the Industrial Home for the Adult Blind reports that at the present time, about 85% of the work done by the blind workers at the Home is for the Federal Government, with sales for the month of May amounting to approximately \$20,000.00. The Field Department, as well as a number of blind persons working in their homes, is engaged in making cotton washers, or grommets. During 1942, 302,700 were made. The Home is supplying work for 100 blind persons in the three shops at the institution, those being



the broom shop, pillow-case factory and garment factory. The following is a list of the blind workers who have gone out of this Institution since January of this year to work in national defense: Ernest Blumenthal, as a pipe threader for Moore's Shipbuilding Company; Carl Bennett and Mrs. Lee Fifield, as power sewing machine operators working on wings of airplanes; Lemoyne Cox, sorting nuts and bolts.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution, Boston, Mass.*—Several graduates have been drawn into business and industry within the past several months. Two are engaged in assembly work at the Torpedo Station at Newport, Rhode Island. One is employed at assembly work at Waltham Watch Company; another is running a cutting machine at Brighton Box Company; and still another is working as a moulder's helper in a foundry in Hyde Park. One of the 1941 graduates has a position selling at the Post Exchange at the Boston Navy Yard, and a 1938 graduate has been accepted by the Army and assigned to Military Police duty at a camp in Oklahoma.

\* \* \*

*Washington: Division for the Blind, Department of Social Security.*—The State Legislature at its most recent session made provision for payment of grants to blind persons who can better their situation by temporarily residing in another state. This means that during their temporary residence in any other state in the union, blind persons who are recipients of Public Assistance to the Blind in the State of Washington may continue to receive their grants while they are living outside the state. In making this announcement, Mrs. Gwen Hardin, supervisor of the Division for the Blind, says: "Such legisla-

tion will call for the cooperation of public welfare agencies in the states to which these persons move, in order to establish continuing eligibility for assistance. However, we do feel that it will give more freedom to blind persons, particularly during the war period when there is so much congestion here in the Northwest."

\* \* \*

*Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School, Faribault, Minn.*—Prospects for the employment of graduates of the Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School are unusually bright, according to the superintendent, Mr. J. C. Lysen, who states that graduates are being employed throughout the state "so fast we can't keep up with them." Firms which have used blind students in various capacities have expressed great satisfaction with the work done. An official of a Faribault packing company which employed some blind youths at the plant last summer, has asked for more this year. With increased attention being drawn to the farm labor shortage, the School sees new opportunities opening for farm boys and girls, who comprise one-third of the student body.

\* \* \*

*Illinois School for the Blind, Jacksonville, Ill.*—Mr. Lewis W. Rodenberg, head of the Printing Department of the school, has been awarded the Migel Medal for Outstanding Service to the Blind. It is given in recognition of his distinguished service in the development and unification of Braille music notation, his work as the American editor of the Musical Review for the Blind, as member of the Uniform Type Committee, and for his scholarly contributions to professional literature on the blind.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
HELEN McWILLIAMS, Associate Editor

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Volume XV                      July, 1943                      Number 4

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## *Congress Legislates for the Blind*

As we go to press, word is received that the Barden Bill, H. R. 699, S. 2536, has passed both Houses and is now in the hands of the Conference Committee for agreement on minor amendments.

In general, the purpose of the bill is to provide for the promotion of vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry or otherwise and their return to civil employment.

Under this bill, the Federal Government stands one-half of necessary expenditures (exclusive of administrative expense) for rehabilitation training of disabled individuals, including the blind, to each state which has by law established a rehabilitation commission.



## *Our Postal Address*

No, the Braille Institute has not moved. Our street address is the same as it has been for sixteen years, namely, 741 North Vermont Avenue. But Uncle Sam has zoned us. We were told we always had a zone number, but we did not know it.

The Postmaster recently informed us that our postal zone number is 27, and to expedite handling of the mail during

this man shortage period, he has asked that we, and all other firms and residents in about 145 of the largest cities consistently use our zone numbers in all correspondence.

It is now necessary for citizens in these cities to obtain from their respective post offices their zone number and to use it, without fail. Patrons and subscribers of the Braille Institute are, therefore, asked to send us their zone numbers in order that we may fully cooperate with the postal department and at the same time insure prompt delivery of our mail to them.

This ruling was issued by the Postmaster General in a special "Mailing Address Bulletin" which, presumably, has been furnished to all citizens affected. The bulletin gave an illustration how and where the zone number was to be placed, as follows:

After 5 days return to  
John Doe  
300 X Street  
Metropolis 5, New York

Mrs. John Doe  
299 S. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles 4, California

Business firms and individuals using printed letterheads are permitted, until their supply is exhausted, to place their zone number after the state, instead of the city.

It is reported that a woman in the Middle West, when receiving this bulletin, promptly replied to the Postmaster General that she would gladly observe the zoning rule, but in no case and under no circumstances, would she change her name to Mrs. John Doe.



### QUESTIONABLE SOLICITATION

Private welfare agencies for the blind always need funds; they never have enough. Perhaps the reasons why are not so important as are the ways and means employed for raising the funds.

There are several methods of solicitation, employed by some agencies, which apparently have met with gratifying results financially, but to which reputable welfare agencies for the blind will not resort.

Such agencies believe there are enough sound, dignified ways of raising funds without adopting methods which, when examined, savor of unscrupulous and questionable means of solicitation.

Among these questionable or, at least, undesirable methods are flower sales, tag days, tin cup passing, street campaigns and demonstrations of any kind, or house to house solicitation.

Executives and experienced workers, associated with recognized agencies in the field of welfare work for the blind, generally regard all of these methods as questionable and reactionary against the best interests of both the blind and their agencies. Other methods equally gross and, therefore, not commendable, are the selling of lead pencils, advanced mailing of tickets for benefits or telephonic solicitations of any kind.

In these respects and, in fact, in all cases, no better counsel can be given and observed than the popular slogan of the Better Business Bureau, viz., "Investigate before investing."

The Braille Institute of America, Inc. cordially invites all who wish to assist with the social and economic welfare of the physically blind, to examine its books and records and service for the purpose of determining its worthiness to receive contributions, gifts and be-

quests vitally needed to maintain its welfare service.



### LIBRARY REMOVAL

Having fully outgrown its quarters at 654-56 North Vermont Avenue, the Braille Institute Library has been moved into a much larger building, located at 721 North Vermont Avenue, leased for a period of three years.

The new location, which is close to the Institute's headquarters, affords several advantages which should, in time, facilitate library circulation and minimize operating costs. It affords, also, ample space for at least three years' expansion.

This Library is one of the 27 regional libraries which furnish desirable literature for the blind in Braille and Moon Type and on sound reproduction records, styled "Talking Books", for The Library of Congress. The territory assigned to it for this purpose includes Southern California, Arizona and Southern Nevada. At present, the Library enrollment consists of 150 Braille readers, 38 Moon readers and 498 Talking Book borrowers.

While The Library of Congress furnishes most of the literature in the Library, its maintenance and operating expense is borne entirely from the funds of the Braille Institute of America, Inc. At present, this operating cost approximates \$10,000 a year. This cost will be more from now on because of increased rental. As all of our members know, the Library service is entirely free.

All through the month of May, we were in the throes of moving the contents of the Library, consisting of many thousands of volumes in Braille and Moon Type and thousands of Talking Book containers, as well.



### A Soldier to His Deacon

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was read at The Los Angeles Breakfast Club, September 30, 1942, by Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougher, Jr., Pastor, First Baptist Church, Glendale, California, and is presented to *Light* readers through his courtesy.

Dear Deacon:

I am sorry I didn't get to see you and say good-bye before I left, but I went in a hurry. I was called in Class A. The next time, I want to be in Class B. (B home when they leave and B home when they come back.) I remember when I registered. I went to a desk and the man in charge was our milkman. He said, "What's your name?" I said, "Oh, you know my name." He said, "What's your name?" I said, "August Childs." He said, "Are you alien?" I said, "No, I feel fine." He asked me where I was born and I said, "Pittsburgh." He said, "When did you first see the light of day?" I said, "When we moved to California." He asked me how old I was, so I told him 23 the first of September. He said, "The first day of September, you'll be in China and that will be the last of August."

Then I went to camp and I guess they didn't think I would live long, because the first fellow I saw wrote on my card, "Flying Corps." I went a little further and some fellow said, "Look what the wind is blowing in." I said, "Wind nothing, the draft is doing it." On the second morning, they put these clothes on me. What an outfit! As soon as you are in it, you feel like fighting everybody. They have two sizes, — too small and too big. The pants were so tight I couldn't sit down. The shoes were so big I turned around three times and they didn't move. That raincoat they gave me, it strained the rain. I passed an officer all dressed

up with a funny belt and all that stuff. He said, "Didn't you notice my uniform when you passed me?" I said, "Yes, what are you kicking about? Look what they gave me!"

One morning, it was 5 degrees below zero and they called us out for underwear inspection. Talk about scenery! Red flannels, BVD's, all kinds. The union suit I had on would fit Tony Galento. The lieutenant lined us up and told us to stand up. I said, "I am, sir, but this underwear makes you think I am sitting down." He got so mad he put me out digging ditches. A little later, he passed me and said, "Don't throw that dirt up here." I said, "Where am I going to put it?" He said, "Dig another hole and throw it in there." We call the new tanks we drive, "Answers." Not only because they are answers to a soldier's prayer, but these answers are for Europe. Hitler will have answers in his Panzers.

Three days later we sailed for Australia. Marching down the pier, I had the worst luck. I had a sergeant who stuttered and it took him so long to say, "Halt!" that 27 of us marched overboard. They pulled us out up on the pier. The captain came by and said, "Fall in." I said, "I already have, sir."

I was on the boat for 12 days,— seasick for 12 days. Nothing going down and everything coming up. The captain marched up and said, "Is the brigadier up yet?" I said, "If I swallowed it, sir, it's up."

Well! We landed and were immediately sent to the Foxholes. After three nights the cannons started to roar and the shells started to pop. I was shaking with patriotism, and I tried to hide behind one of the trees, but there weren't enough trees for even the officers. The captain came around and



said, "We charge the enemy at five o'clock." I said, "Captain, I'd like a furlough." He said, "Haven't you any red blood in you?" I said, "Yes, sir, but I don't want to see it."

Five o'clock, we went over the top and 10,000 Japs came at us. The way they looked at me, you'd think I started this war. Our captain yelled, "Fire at will." I didn't know anybody by the name of Will. I guess the fellow behind thought I was Will, because he fired and shot me in the excitement.

Very truly yours,

AUGUST CHILDS.

✦

### Home Care Needed

Frequently we receive inquiries from the blind, or from persons who have blind friends, asking for information where comfortable living quarters may be obtained. Recently, a woman wrote us in behalf of her mother, as follows:

"I am looking for a home for my mother, whose vision is almost gone.

\* \* \* She is about seventy-nine, of unusually good health and activity for that age. Although she has learned to read Moon Type, has a Talking Book machine and records from the State Library, and can write her own letters, she would be more content were there something for her to do, or where there were others with whom she could visit."

Previously, the Braille Institute had a limited list of homes, private and public, able and willing to receive blind persons at rates they could afford to pay for home conditions. However, this list is now completely depleted. There seems to be no vacancies anywhere suitable for the purpose.

If you are able to render such service, even to just one blind person, please write or telephone the Braille

Institute, OLympia 1121, giving the requisite information.

### BLIND MASTER MACHINE PRODUCTION

*Continued from Page 8*

ing machines used on mattresses enable workers who formerly turned out eight units a day to do that many in an hour. Military production amounts to three-fourths of the total.

With 145 people on the payroll, two-thirds on the day shift and the other third working nights, it would be possible to employ all blind persons in Southern California who wish to work if there were more floor space to accommodate them. In the San Francisco area, and down in San Diego, there have been actual shortages of blind workers, but the preponderance of handicapped population in the vicinity of Los Angeles has always made the employment problem peculiarly hard.

Under plans now afoot for leasing another building as large as the one now occupied, the shop expects to give employment to all blind and sight-handicapped people who want to work.

When this happens, a sheet-making department will be added, with another for making chenille bed spreads, rugs and novelties, and these will be set up so that, at the end of the war, they can be switched to larger production for regular civilian trade channels.

Having demonstrated that they can manufacture regular factory goods, in competition with normal workers, and with a moderate amount of financial support from the State, to protect them in the shifts and changes of the times, the blind are determined to capitalize what they have learned in war.

And it is hoped that the public has also learned something about the blind—that they want, not charity, but pay-checks.

And are capable of earning them.



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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The Oklahoma Commission for the Adult Blind has a new officer of wide experience in work for the blind, in the person of Mr. Harry Austin, who has recently been appointed executive secretary for the Commission. Losing his sight as a boy of 17, young Harry immediately entered the Oklahoma State School for the Blind at Muskogee and graduated from that institution in 1924 with honors, having earned certificates in industrial training and piano tuning, in addition to the regular high school diploma. He wanted more education than could be gained at the State School and he attended the Southern Methodist University for two years. Since that time he has earned a comfortable living for himself and family by tuning pianos and working as a telephone operator. In 1936 he was appointed assistant home teacher for the State Commission for the Blind, and in 1938 was promoted to the position of senior teacher. The present appointment is one which will give him ample scope for his ability in working for the blind, in which he has always been very interested.



A young woman, blind for many years, who was also eager to further her education is Miss Martha Wolfson of Boston, Massachusetts. She went as far as possible with the Perkins Institution there and, with the assistance of the Boston Committee for the Blind and one or two other organizations, was able to enter Radcliffe College, going on to the Boston University School of Social Service, from which she has just been graduated. A posi-

tion was awaiting her, upon graduation, as family case worker with the Worcester Associated Charities. These sightless young students have proved, beyond doubt, that education need not stop when blindness begins. On the contrary, there are many who are possessors of a much more thorough education since their physical sight has been taken, than would likely have been possible otherwise.



Courage, too, is not lacking in these young people. Word has just been received of a young boy, E. Skene, in the Cardiff Institute's School, England, who has been awarded the Intermediate Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society for practical knowledge of rescue and ability to render aid to the drowning and apparently drowned. Young Skene has taken all the tests and given a splendid account of himself which entitles him not only to the Certificate of the Royal Life Saving Society, but also the Bronze Medallion which will be presented to him after the war. So far as is known, he is the only blind boy in recent years in England, to have attained this distinction.



Martin Bergen, blind since early childhood, has established a fine reputation for himself in his home town of Brooklyn, New York. As a very young man, thirty years ago, he studied physiotherapy in spite of the discouraging skepticism and incredulity of his friends and acquaintances. Doggedly he went ahead and as a result, was the first Brooklyn blind man to practice along that line. Since then he has had 29 suc-



cessful years in New York City's major hospitals and has quietly and unostentatiously hung up an enviable record for himself, and has been the inspiration of many other blind men to follow in his footsteps.



Another Brooklyn man who lost his sight in 1937, after a long business career, was Walter Van Putten. Staggered by the blow, he felt he was finished. His employers, manufacturers of steel office furniture, however, felt differently about it, and urged him to continue as the New York manager of the firm's business. Although dubious, Mr. Van Putten took hold with customary assurance and, with the help of his wife, not only carried on the business, but improved it, as the annual report showed. He had also been engaged as an auditor by another firm. And, instead of losing that, he taught his wife his system of handling books and, with her assistance, he continued this work successfully. A blind man with two positions! Life and a career were far from over for Mr. Van Putten.



A Sunday columnist and feature writer on the Buffalo Courier, metropolitan newspaper of Buffalo, N. Y., is blind Katherine Smith, who has held that position since 1927, five days after graduating from Vassar. She was young, energetic and ambitious and had no time to wait, so directly following her graduation, she started out to find work on a newspaper. Buffalo was her first stop and she's been there since. She speaks French and Spanish fluently and when, several years ago, she went to South America for the paper, she did most of her interviewing in Spanish. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa.

## THIS IS THE HOUSE

### THAT PETER BUILT

*Continued from Page 5*

blind people's abilities and personal characteristics, so that in addition to employment in these three plants, the institution places many blind workers with outside employers. He maintains that it is wrong for the home to keep on its work force a man who could do better working elsewhere, and wrong for it to send out for private employment a blind worker who belongs in the home's shops. To this end, he has devised a method of analysis, training and placement that ranks with the best techniques to be found in this day of war development along those lines.

This is the House that Peter Built.

Far in the future, it should be possible to point and say, "That is the work of a man who knew how to build."

Or you can say so today.

## EVELYN LEE'S COOK BOOK

*Continued from Page 11*

Based upon a 30-copy run, the actual cost of the plates and printing and binding will be \$19.50, prepaid, per set of two volumes. If orders for as many as 50 copies can be received by the time the press work starts, the book can be marketed at \$12.50, prepaid, for two volumes.

Because of the tremendous saving to be realized in a 50-copy run over a 30-copy run, as mentioned above, it is hoped that the response to this announcement will be such as to fully justify a 50-copy run.

The Braille Institute will endeavor to subsidize the distribution of this cook book to the blind, so that they may obtain it much below the publishing cost, as given above. But it is felt that all institutions and agencies should be asked to pay the production cost.



# OPPORTUNITY...

The welfare activities of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as set forth on the following page, are broad enough to meet the social and economic needs of the blind and partially blind in every walk of life.

They are maintained to the extent funds make possible without respect to race, color or creed.

With no assistance from the community chest of Los Angeles, with no governmental aid, State or Federal, and with limited endowments to date, the Institute must look to voluntary contributions of the public, and to its membership dues, for the maintenance of these activities.

The opportunity to help the blind, where help is most needed, administered by an institution, efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the problems of the physically blind, is always available through the activities of the Braille Institute.

Yearly contributions of monthly pledges, large or small, or an application for any one of the memberships listed on the following page, will help more than may be imagined.

*In addition, the charitably inclined are assured that their benevolence will help the blind in future years by naming the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as a beneficiary in wills or insurance policies.*

.....  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 27

I am glad to avail myself of the opportunity to contribute to your activities maintained for the benefit of the blind. I enclose \$.....

to assist with.....or wherever needed.  
(name of activity)

Name.....

Address.....City.....

Date.....



### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the  
Braille Institute of America, Inc., Los  
Angeles, California

(Insert description of money or  
property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the  
corporation.

### FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is after-  
wards desired to make a gift or bequest to the  
Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be  
sufficient if the form below is filled in, and  
signed by the testator in the presence of two  
witnesses, who also, at the request of the tes-  
tator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the  
testator and in the presence of each other. This  
codicil should then be carefully attached to  
the existing will.

#### CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and  
Testament of....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE  
INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Ange-  
les, California, for the general purposes of the  
corporation, the sum of.....(or a de-  
scription of any property, real or personal).

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my  
hand this.....day of....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the <sup>testator</sup> as and for a Codicil to  
<sup>testatrix</sup> his last Will dated.....in the presence  
her (Date of Will)

of us, both present at the same time, who at his  
her request and in his presence, and in the pres-  
ence of each other, have hereunto set our  
names as witnesses.

....., residing at.....

....., residing at.....

Readers of *Light* are cordially invited  
to investigate the worthiness of the  
Braille Institute of America, Inc. as  
beneficiary in their wills, insurance  
policies or war bonds.

Under its charter as a non-profit, non-  
sectarian California corporation, the  
Braille Institute is empowered to re-  
ceive and accept for the purposes of  
the corporation, gifts, donations, be-  
quests, and devices of money and prop-  
erty, and to perform any conditions  
*which may be stipulated by the donors.*

It may be said that the "purposes of  
the corporation" are broad enough in  
scope to meet the social and economic  
needs of persons blinded in adulthood  
in every walk of life. For this reason  
and because the administrative staff  
of the Braille Institute is efficiently  
organized and adequately equipped to  
cope intelligently with the needs of the  
blind and to determine where and how  
blind welfare service can best be ap-  
plied for the amelioration of physical  
blindness, the Trustees prefer that be-  
quests should not be limited or restrict-  
ed for specific purposes. However, do-  
nors may feel assured that if their be-  
quests are particularly designated, the  
instruction of the donors will be ob-  
served to the letter.

### ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

#### BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Desk Braille Slate with Board and Stylus, 34 x 4 (cells)	\$2.00
#1 Braille Pocket Slate and Stylus, 27 x 4 (cells)	1.10
#2 Braille Slate and Stylus, Postcard size, 19 x 6 (cells)	1.10
Hill Metal Writing Guide (for longhand writing), with Instruction Sheet	.65
Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing)	Postpaid .15
Braille paper, Sunset Tympan, 75#, 9 x 12, per pound	.17
Braille paper, roll Manila, 9 x 12, per pound	.15
American Red Cross Braille Paper, 100 sheets	.45
Standard Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille)	Postpaid .15
Playing Cards, Brailled	.75 and 1.00
Braille Dominoes, interlocking	1.00
Checkerboard and Men	.75

ITEMS NOT MARKED "POSTPAID" ARE SUB-  
JECT TO POSTAGE CHARGE AND SALES TAX  
IN CALIFORNIA

Buy . . .

WAR BONDS

and . . .

STAMPS ..Now!



# ACTIVITIES

1) Social Welfare—work with local blind, and in some cases with the blind in other localitiēs, having to do with personal adjustment problems created by blindness, including the donation of appliances or free services when necessary.

2) Home Teaching—free instruction in reading and writing raised print (Braille and Moon Type) and typewriting.

3) Business Guidance — consultation and other services, including business loans, to the employable blind and the sponsorship of vocational literature.

4) Library Service — free circulation of books in raised print and talking book records to the blind of California and Arizona.

5) Literature — sponsorship of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay, including the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille.

6) Research—the development of appliances for the blind; consultation and other services to blind individuals and organizations.

7) Operation of a printing department — on a non-commercial basis — for the publication of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types sponsored by the Braille Institute or by other agencies.



# MEMBERSHIPS

The activities the Braille Institute sponsors for the social and economic welfare of the blind are sustained through voluntary contributions of the public, bequests and membership dues, as follows:

Patron	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	\$5.00
Supporting	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10.00
Contributing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	25.00
Associate	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50.00
Sustaining	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100.00
Life	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000.00

Membership applications will be mailed on request. Those who may not care to become members can assist by contributing any amount, large or small. Such contributions may be specified as for a definite activity.

Contributions and membership fees are deductible from Income Tax.



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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Vol. XVI, No. 1

October, 1943



## THE TRAINS MUST GO THROUGH!

By JOHN MAPPELBECK

**T**HE trains must go through! That is fundamental among railroad construction men.

And when, in 1913, a railroad construction superintendent lost his eyesight, through a premature dynamite explosion accident, a forceful character began insisting that the trains go through in another field—work for people handicapped like himself.

Lucian Louis Watts is a Virginian, born in Albemarle County, in 1888.

So the world was all ahead of him at twenty-five. After graduating from secondary schools, and giving himself a further education through university extension courses, he had gone to work, and was getting along well in a period when America's industries were developing along new lines, the automobile and movies were established, and in another year, in the first World War, aviation would begin going places.

Watts's subjects in the extension courses were all basically social—he took psychology, commercial law, business administration, political science



L. L. WATTS

*Executive Secretary, Virginia Commission for the Blind.*

and economics. Evidently, he wanted to be prepared to understand and manage people wherever he ran into them.

But he now admits that, until he lost his sight, he was interested solely in one person—L. L. Watts.

His accident was, of course, a blow



—he imagined ahead of him only a useful career in broom-making and mattress reconditioning.

But he was dynamic then, as now. Workers for the blind who know him, say that no auditorium in the country, however large, needs a loud-speaker when Wait. is talking. He is himself his own public address system, with a deep Southern drawl that makes him a delightful speaker. He doesn't need Edison or Bell to get to an audience. What he has to say—and it is always practical and illuminating, comes direct from himself to you.

Following the prescribed course for an adult blinded person, he went to the Virginia State School for the Deaf and Blind, graduating in 1917, and during his rehabilitation he discovered that there was no organization whatever in Virginia interested in the adult blind.

Immediately, he saw his future vocation.

Throwing himself into the project of arousing public concern that would make an organization possible, he started teaching other sightless adults, as a substitute teacher, in the literary department of the public school from which he had been graduated. There he made such an impression, that within a year, in 1918, he was offered two positions—either head teacher of the blind department, or teacher of industrial arts.

He chose to be an industrial arts teacher, and the following year had his organization blue-printed, and ready to go.

The Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind was organized in 1919, with the assistance of H. Randolph Latimer and Mr. McManaway. Watts was chosen president, and served for many terms.

Part of his project was arousing public opinion to the need for such an organization, and enlisting public-spirited persons who could see the adult blind practically, instead of sentimentally. Watts had developed as a convincing speaker, and on this subject he was listened to, whether he spoke to an audience, or a group, or an individual. Eminent men and women in Virginia were awakened to the fact that grown persons who had lost their sight wanted to become self-supporting, not to be pitied or coddled.

Another part of the project was getting legislative support. In 1920, at his suggestion, a bill was introduced and passed by the Virginia legislators, appointing a temporary committee to study the condition of the blind. Watts was made a member-at-large on this committee, and elected secretary at its first meeting. Two years later, the report of the committee led to the establishment of a permanent commission, of which he was elected executive secretary.

Thereafter, although he had a multitude of friends and helpers in his native State, he was in a position to see that the trains went through.

Watts has often said that he gets a great deal more pleasure out of life with his handicap than he ever did until blinded.

Among the things that a blinded adult has to learn with great detail, is a different kind of attention to people. Just as the location of everyday things has to be memorized, so people must be attended to, and identified and classed by their voices, their mannerisms, their ability to carry a project through, or otherwise.

This new viewpoint with people, and

(Continued on Page 17)



# AND EVERY BLIND WORKER MADE GOOD!

By JAMES H. COLLINS

NOT only are a half-dozen sightless people working in the fine modern factory of the Adel Precision Products Corporation, in Burbank, California, but everything else is all right—the way they got in, and the attitude of management toward them, and their performance.

Present prospects are that, when a new building is finished, more blind workers will be hired and trained.

Ray Ellinwood is president of this company, and he knows what it is to hunt a job.

For, five years ago, he came to Los Angeles with a new movie camera, started making it in a garage, and to keep himself going until some sales could be made—it cost \$12,000—took a job at the Douglas aircraft plant.

His camera had a focusing device which aircraft engineers said was just the thing for control on carburetors of

four-motored bombers. So, he began making control mechanisms, invented other aircraft devices, and his business has grown into a large organization.

Mr. Ellinwood wanted to employ blind people, but nobody had the answers to certain questions.

"What kinds of work could they do?" he queried. "How much guidance and protection would we have to give them? Blind people have dogs, don't they—what would we do with the dogs?"

One day, he heard of a fellow who had the answers—Earl C. Houk, a blind man, well known around Los Angeles as a professional singer, and an Elk, and also employed by the county, as "ajudicator for the blind."

Which means that when blind people have problems connected with their state benefits, or anything else, Earl Houk is assigned to talk things over with them, and generally gets

them straightened out. Naturally, he knows as many blind people as anybody.

"What kind of work can blind people do?" asked Ellinwood.

"Suppose you send me out into the factory and let me try different kinds of work myself," was Houk's suggestion.

So, they took him around, introduced him to people working in various departments, let him try their tasks for himself, and he set-



First learning how to do the work himself, Earl Houk was then able to teach it to other blind workers.



tled on at least a dozen different operations, some done by sensitive fingers, and some on machines. Despite apprehension over accidents, he is certain that blind workers can run machines like punch-presses, but Adel managers have not yet gone that far.

"How will we hire blind people?" Ellinwood asked, and Houk sent for some of the blind men whom he knew, and proceeded to interview them in the personnel manager's office.

"What makes you think you could make good in a factory like this?" Houk would ask, and "What mechanical experience have you had?" It was about like hiring sighted folks. The personnel manager was fascinated.

One of the first blind applicants happened to be a piano-tuner, and the personnel man knew that anybody capable of adjusting the mechanism of a piano would be qualified to assemble aircraft parts.

Half a dozen blind men were hired, and put through the regular trial period for sighted workers. That is, they were trained to do certain operations, and paid sixty-six cents an hour for their work, and at the end of a month were examined in skill. If they hadn't done well, they would be dropped, like sighted incompetents. But if they made the grade, they stayed on, and got seventy-six cents.

Every one of the blind workers passed! They are all there yet, except one who, temporarily, has a transportation problem to solve.

And for employers who may be thinking about hiring blind workers, here is the chief difficulty—getting to and from work.

At first, Houk arranged for his half-dozen blind employees to ride with a sighted worker for whom he got an Adel job. They all work on the same swing shift. The blind workers would take street cars or busses from their homes to points where they could be picked up easily.

So far—good! But then their sighted friend had to quit. For a few days there were makeshifts, and then the blind workers solved their own problem by riding in the motorbuses that pick up aircraft workers. They get to the bus stops by themselves, and get aboard, and with a little steering by the elbow, find their factory places—their sighted fellow-workers soon forgot that they are blind.

In the factory, the blind employees work at their own bench, doing assembly tasks, putting pieces of metal and rubber together, testing the fit, catching the misfits. All around, sighted



Neither the blind workers nor their dogs give anybody trouble at the Adel plant.



workers are busy, forget that they are blind, wisecrack back and forth.

At lunch time, some sighted worker gives the blind pals a little guidance. They themselves know how to take care of their needs and have healthy appetites for the bread earned in the sweat of the brow.

About dogs, that problem also took care of itself. About half of the blind workers have trained dog guides, and the animals take these individuals to their work, and then settle down under the bench, and keep quiet, and out of the way. When lunch time comes, the dogs know the whistle, and have just as good appetites. Through the eight-hour shift, rather tiresome for a dog with no job to do, sighted workers will bring the animals a drink of water, speak to them, relieve their boredom. There has been talk of building kennels where they can park comfortably—but the dogs haven't asked for that.

This project was started on Houk's own time—he was on vacation when Ellinwood asked him how blind people could be employed. His practical suggestions led to an arrangement under which he advises Adel on blind workers. Adel has been outgrowing its breeches for four years, and looks forward to getting into still another new extension. When that happens, other blind people, women as well as men, may be taken on.

With his wide acquaintance among the blind of Los Angeles County, Houk knows plenty of candidates for jobs who are capable of doing specific kinds of work, as well as their transportation problems, based on distance from homes to war plants. County authorities recently stated that 85 blind persons have been removed from the list receiving assistance under California's

law for the needy blind to take war jobs. Graduates from a class for blind automobile mechanics, the first of its kind in the country, which was started at the Frank Wiggins Trade School, have lately gone into jobs. The able-bodied blind want jobs in preference to charitable assistance. Houk thinks the prospects are fairly good for blind people continuing in factory work after the war, because employers have discovered their abilities, and blind people have learned kinds of work never available to them before.

Earl Houk is a versatile fellow, for in addition to his blind relations work for the county, he is mechanic enough to do factory tasks within the capacity of other blind people, and a good employment manager and supervisor for them.

Then, he is a professional singer, in the baritone range, well-known for his solos at Pierce Brothers mortuary chapel, and at Elks Lodge No. 99, of which he is an active member.

Moreover, he is rated "Los Angeles Baseball Fan No. 1" by local newspaper sports writers, because he never misses a game on the home grounds, if he can help it, and follows all the plays, and the players' records, with more enthusiasm and accuracy than many a sighted baseball lover. For a while, some years ago, when time permitted, Houk was sports writer for the Los Angeles Record.

Born with very poor vision, in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, in 1885, Houk was able to see well enough to keep up with sighted pupils in the public schools during the lower grades. But then vision faded completely, and he was transferred to a school for the blind.

There, he revealed musical ability, and trained for professional singing.

(Continued on Page 17)



# PROVISIONS FOR BLINDED VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

J. ROBERT ATKINSON, *President American Association of Workers for the Blind*

(Prepared at the request of the Trustees of BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.)

SINCE the declaration of war, following Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, Congress has passed legislation or amended existing legislation to provide benefits and services to veterans of World War II.

Although the Veterans' Administration uses the term, "Pensions for Blindness," the U. S. Committee on the War Blind of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, meeting at Columbus, Ohio, in July, 1943, preferred the terminology of "Compensation Insurance" for the War Blind, as, indeed, it really is. Of course, in this connection, nothing can fully compensate the selected servicemen and women who suffered the loss of physical sight in this conflict.

The Social Security Act succeeded in solving at least one troublesome controversial and much debated problem which, for years, caused misunderstanding and injustice to the blind of this Nation and to workers in their behalf. This was an establishment of a concise, workable, understandable definition of blindness, by declaring as "industrially blind", all persons having not more than 20/200 of visual acuity in the better eye with correcting lenses; or visual acuity greater than 20/200, but with a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees.

In simple language, for the laymen, this means briefly that persons having a vision of 20/200 can read a block letter at a distance of twenty feet which the person with normal vision reads at

a distance of 200 feet, the letter measuring 3-7/16" high and 3-7/16" wide.

"Total blindness" is recognized when the best corrected vision for near and for distant is 5/200, or less.

Under the Veterans' Administration program, the rate of compensation insurance, payable to the blinded veterans, varies from \$100 to \$175 per month, in proportion to these two degrees of blindness.

The above compensation is for life, regardless of how much independent income the blinded veteran may have from any source and regardless of what he may be able to earn by reason of his rehabilitation for gainful employment in any field of endeavor.

Restoration of employability must be and will be the primary objective of the forthcoming program of the Veterans' Administration for the vocational rehabilitation of blind veterans of World War II. This is so not only because restoration of employability is the primary purpose of the Law providing vocational rehabilitation for the disabled veteran, but also because the restoration of employability is the surest means of avoiding idleness and purposelessness, which to many blind persons may be as hard to bear as the loss of their sight.

Recognizing, also, that failure by immediate relatives to understand the importance and the practical possibility of the blind veteran becoming satisfactorily employed may impair or even destroy his will to make the effort to accomplish vocational rehabilitation training, the Administration is complet-



ing a ten-point program for the rehabilitation, care and after-care of these blinded veterans, which is highlighted as follows:

1. The common tendency to deal with the blind veteran differently from the way of dealing with sighted persons will be scrupulously avoided.

2. The blind veteran, if his employability is to be successfully restored, must be made as independent and self-reliant as possible. Accordingly, where not already acquired, social adjustment training adequate in kind and amount will be provided as a part of the course of vocational rehabilitation in each case.

3. The social adjustment should begin while the patient is still in the hospital. Accordingly, the Medical and Hospital Service of the Veterans' Administration has set up social adjustment training for the blind veteran in the Veterans' Administration hospital at Hines, Illinois, and we understand that the Army and Navy are planning similar social adjustment programs to operate at designated hospitals, the Lettermen General Hospital, U. S. Army, San Francisco, California, being one of them. It is to be noted that the social adjustment of a blind veteran is considered very important. His success in vocational training and later in employment is proportional to the degree of his adjustment to his disability. The more complete such adjustment, the wider becomes his choice of vocational objective.

4. To enable each blind veteran to pursue satisfactorily his course of vocational rehabilitation, all equipment, supplies, and reading assistance, which are clearly necessary to the successful pursuit of his training, will be furnished by the Government.

5. Long continuous periods of training in residence at institutions for the blind with consequent danger of the veteran becoming "institutionalized" will be avoided.

6. The blind veteran will be made to realize as far as possible that, regardless of the amount of pension he may receive, idleness and lack of adjustment to his condition may, in the future, constitute as great a tragedy as blindness itself. Accordingly, the blind veteran will be urged to apply for the vocational rehabilitation benefits afforded by the Act and to pursue vocational rehabilitation training to a successful conclusion — satisfactory employment.

At the Columbus Convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, its U. S. Committee on the War Blind made numerous observations and recommendations, one of which relates to services for return of the blind veterans to their home community. The committee suggested that so far as practicable the services of existing state and private agencies for the blind be utilized in helping the blinded person to re-establish himself in his home community and in securing suitable employment for him. In his own state there can often be found professional and vocational schools which should be utilized for certain kinds of special training which will make it possible to reduce to a minimum the length of time to be spent at the rehabilitation center.

The committee is firmly convinced that except in cases of temporary emergency where governmental provision has not yet been made, private funds should not be called upon for the maintenance of rehabilitation facilities



for blinded servicemen and women in the United States.

In support of this recommendation, the Association unanimously adopted a resolution submitted by the Committee which reads in part, as follows:

WHEREAS, the United States Government, through the Clark-Walsh-Rankin Act, has assumed full responsibility for the care, rehabilitation and training of all discharged war-blinded service personnel; and

WHEREAS, there is therefore, no need for the solicitation of private funds for this purpose by any other agency;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Association of Workers for the Blind, in convention assembled, hereby declares its strong condemnation of the establishment of agencies or organized groups for the solicitation of private funds for the care, rehabilitation and training of the discharged war-blinded personnel.

The resolution also instructed the Secretary-General of the Association to give wide circulation to the substance of this resolution, especially to the daily press, and further to send a copy of this resolution to the Attorney-General of California, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy and to General Hines, Administrator of the Veterans' Administration, coupled with the re-

quest that an official notification be furnished to the Secretary of State in each of the State Governments throughout the Union advising of the full acceptance of responsibility of the Federal Government for the training and rehabilitation of war blinded persons and of the undesirability of incorporating private organizations or permitting the collection of funds from the general public for such purposes.

The Committee further recommended that no approach should be made to a war-blinded person regarding his acquisition of a guide dog during his period of hospitalization and preliminary training and adjustment, and that no decision in respect to the use of a guide dog should be made until the relationship between the vocation to be followed and the need of a dog can be determined.

According to Maurice I. Tynan, Field Agent for the Blind, Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the United States Office of Education, Washington, D. C., in his report to the American Association of Workers for the Blind, convening at Columbus, Ohio, July, 1943, there had been reported 23 selected servicemen blinded in World War II. Four of these were questionable in that the possibilities were good that, under proper medical treatment, they might recover their sight or, at least, be only partially blinded.





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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
HELEN McWILLIAMS, Associate Editor

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## *Braille Institute Founder Honored*

At the Twentieth Biennial Convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, held at Columbus, Ohio, July 12th to 15th, J. Robert Atkinson, Founder, Vice-President and Managing Director of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was unanimously elected President for the ensuing biennium.

This is the highest honor that can be conferred upon an executive engaged in welfare work for the blind in the United States and Canada.

With but a few exceptions in the organization's forty years' existence, this office has always been filled by men without physical sight, who have overcome the handicap of blindness to become men of prominence in the business and professional fields.

Naturally, the Trustees and members of the Braille Institute of America, Inc. feel highly gratified that its Managing Director has been awarded this distinction.

Other officers elected at the business meeting are:

L. L. Watts, Executive Secretary, Virginia Commission for the Blind, Richmond, Virginia, First Vice-President.

J. C. Lysen, Superintendent, Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School, Faribault, Minnesota, Second Vice-President.

Alfred Allen, Executive Secretary, Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, Winnetka, Illinois, Secretary-General.

Guy Nickerson, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Pittsburgh Branch, Pittsburgh, Pa., Treasurer.

These men constitute the Association's Executive Committee and, as such, with the following persons, form the Board of Directors for the next biennium:

Col. E. A. Baker, M.C., O.B.E., Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, Canada.

Raymond M. Dickinson, Teacher of Adult Blind, Illinois Industrial Home for the Blind, Chicago, Illinois.

Charles D. Grover, President, N. Y. State Federation of Workers for the Blind, Albany, N. Y.

Mrs. Helen B. Jones, Supervisor, Sight Saving Classes, Virginia Commission for the Blind, Richmond, Virginia.

Howard M. Liechty, Assistant to Walter G. Holmes, President, Matilda Ziegler Publishing Company, Monsey, New York.

Dr. Berthold Lowenfeld, Director, Talking Book Education Project, American Foundation for the Blind, New York, N. Y.

Dr. Claire Owens, Exeter, Nebraska.  
William S. Ratchford, Secretary and Superintendent, Maryland Workshop for the Blind, Baltimore, Md.

Dr. S. C. Swift, Chief Librarian, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Toronto, Ontario.

Dr. S. M. Whinery, Principal, Indiana School for the Blind, Indianapolis, Ind.



Frank A. Wrench, Field Secretary, Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind, Richmond, Virginia.

All persons in North America and the territorial and insular possessions of the United States interested in the welfare of the blind or in the prevention of blindness are eligible for membership in the Association.

The Columbus meeting was attended by delegates from thirty-nine states, as well as many from the Dominion of Canada.

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### *Twenty-four Years of Welfare Service*

On September 30th, last, the Braille Institute of America, Inc. rounded out its twenty-four years of welfare service to the blind of the State and Nation.

Established originally in 1919, the first ten years of the Institute's existence was devoted largely to the literary advancement of the blind, to the publication in Braille of the King James version of the Bible and a wide range of literature to which the blind had never before had access, and to the launching of a current topic monthly magazine.

Rehabilitating and assisting those handicapped by loss of physical sight to resume their normal lives and independence to the end that they may become self-supporting, is the ultimate purpose of the Institute and its founder. Toward this end, the following inven-

tions and accomplishments have been introduced in its years of existence.

An electric machine has been invented, making Braille plates, which does all and more than the linotype in ordinary printing. This plate-making machine has been perfected to print literature in Braille on both sides of the paper by the interpoint process, which saves from 30% to 40% in production cost and volume.

A Braille typewriter has been invented, semi-noiseless, speedy of operation and light, suitable for note-taking, either in classroom or business office.

A plan, which resulted in Federal legislation appropriating \$100,000 a year to supply literature to the blind through the Library of Congress, was initiated by our founder.

The plan for publication, in Braille, of Webster's Students Dictionary (G. and C. Merriam edition) the first complete, abridged, self-pronouncing dictionary ever to be published for the blind, was initiated also by our founder.

Since 1929, the Institute's activities for the blind have been broadened until they now include service to the blind in every walk of life, socially and economically, to the extent funds permit. These activities are succinctly set forth elsewhere in this issue of LIGHT.

The January, 1944, issue of LIGHT will contain reports of the Institute's welfare service for its fiscal year, ending September 30, based upon a certified audit of the books, which will be made at that time.





## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c..

*Connecticut Board of Education, Hartford, Conn.*—In recognition of his twenty-five years of faithful service to the Board, Stetson K. Ryan was recently presented with a purse by the grateful staff. Friends and fellow workers from other departments participated in extending congratulations and good wishes.

Mr. Ryan, though sighted, has long been active in blind welfare work, having been intensely interested in social problems even before his appointment in April, 1918, to his present position. And, in 1934, he became a trustee of the American Foundation for the Blind. He was formerly assistant superintendent of the Hartford Charity Organization Society and had previously engaged in newspaper work, as state editor of the Hartford Courant.

\* \* \*

*New York Association for the Blind, New York, N. Y.*—Seventy blind women workers registered with The Lighthouse, are filling jobs in both civilian and war-time industries today. Stanley Wartenberg, Lighthouse Employment Supervisor, states that within the last year, a total of 33 blind women have been placed in private industry. About five times as many blind women workers have been placed in civilian industries as in war plants, including dictaphone operators, department store employees, factory workers employed at assembling games, collating pages for book-bindery, dressing dolls, working on receiving and feeding belts in a large candy concern. The ages of blind women workers range from 20 to 57 years. Four blind women work as newsdeal-

ers. Others work as messengers, telephone operators, social workers, teachers and saleswomen for magazines and brushes.

\* \* \*

*John Milton Sightless Club, Alhambra, Cal.*—Victory gardens, canned fruit and vegetables, rabbits and chickens to supply their own families with plenty of meat. These are a few of the accomplishments of some of the members of the John Milton Sightless Club. Men who are sightless but whose wives are working in defense industry have taken over the household tasks to release their wives for essential industries. Several of the men built their own rabbit hutches and chicken equipment, canned the vegetables and fruits from their own gardens, besides having a hot meal ready in the evenings.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's for Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, London, Eng.*—The following is an excerpt from a recent article written by Major Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is organizing welfare measures for blinded Indian soldiers, and who has also been asked by the government of India to prepare postwar plans for the welfare of their blinded citizens:

"Indian civilian blind work is, as you know, a tremendous problem in this vast country of four hundred million people, and the blind variously estimated to number from one to four million. Some twenty-six schools, workshops and homes already exist, but most of them are faced with difficulties so great and on such slender incomes they can make but little headway. Alto-



gether, they take care of only twelve hundred of the several million. . . . Of course, a large amount of blindness is preventable or curable, and the field is so great that considerable extension is needed. So much of the reduction in blindness depends upon better sanitation, more balanced diet, abandonment of much of Indian medicines and treatments and simple precautions. This has been begun, and must go on steadily and with confidence in ultimate achievement."

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*National Council for the Blind of Ireland, Dublin, Eire.*—The friends of the National Council are gratified to note the steady progress made in Eire, and the strengthening and consolidation of the welfare work. The year's chronicle includes these items of interest:

There are 26 blind men employed on allotments under direction of the Dublin Corporation; over a thousand blind men and women have been supplied with wireless sets since the Fund began its work. A special Committee has been set up to examine the administration of blind welfare throughout Eire, and a deputation is to be sent to the Minister, concerned with special reference to the immediate needs of those hit by the present high cost of living.

\* \* \*

*Seattle Chapter of the Red Cross, Braille Department, Seattle, Washington.*—The work of Mrs. Orrin H. Carpenter of this city, which has shown a

deep and sympathetic interest in those handicapped by blindness, was recently brought to the attention of Mrs. William H. Pouch, president-general of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. In recognition of her outstanding work, Mrs. Carpenter has been advised of her appointment as national D.A.R. vice-chairman for the blind and, as such, she will direct the work of a sub-committee in the State of Washington. Since 1929, when Mrs. Carpenter assumed the direction of the Braille work for the Seattle-King County Chapter of the Red Cross, the volunteers have transcribed 18,250 pages.

\* \* \*

*Palm Beach County Braille Workers for the Blind, Inc., Palm Beach, Fla.*—Among the outstanding advances which the Palm Beach area has made in social science, not the least is the effective way in which the problems of blindness have been handled. If a blind person so desires, he may have a home teacher for Braille Crafts or any subject in which he is interested. He may have an electrical mechanical reader. His physical, mental and financial problems may be laid before the professional worker who will act in a fiduciary capacity or find the proper authority to aid and protect. He may attend the Craft and Braille School at Howard Park, or the Industrial High School, if he desires further training or education. For social recreation, he may join the Braille Club at Howard Park or attend the social events of the Palm Beach County Braille Workers for the Blind, Inc.





## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

If Anthony Forcelli of Salem, New Jersey, could make his voice heard to every blind and sighted individual, he would first stress the fact that physical blindness need not be the end of everything to any person. And he would be speaking, not from copybooks or quotation, but from his own personal experience. But Tony is much too modest to attract attention to himself by mentioning events in his own life, and we shall do it for him.

The personnel director of his company, Mr. C. A. Metcalf, speaking for the Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation of Lancaster, Ohio, with branch office in Salem, is high in his praise of all blind workers and Tony Forcelli, in particular. In the eighteen months he has been with the company, Tony has come to be regarded as equally capable as any of the sighted workers, and as fast in his work, his sensitive fingers detecting as many flaws as any of his co-workers not handicapped by loss of vision. And he is definitely not a member of the absentee group, never having lost a minute due to accident, for he is unusually safety-conscious, insisting that there is no need for anyone to be hurt. And, his Uncle Sam will be proud to hear this: He has subscribed for a War Bond out of every pay check.

Tony Forcelli will not tell him, but we will.



Los Angeles claims a blind patriot in the person of young Maebelle Barney, blind since birth. Her sensitive fingers which have for years



Maebelle Barney, blind Los Angeles war worker with her first assistant, Louise, black Labrador retriever.

brought the finest of music from her piano, are now engaged in instrument assembly work at North American Aviation. More specifically, she assembles camera vacuum control panels for B-25s, one of the Army's very efficient fighter-planes. And she loves it. But when the war is over and the boys are home again, Maebelle will return with pleasure to her first love, music. She mastered the piano in three years and has a repertoire of over 250 compositions, having been featured in churches, clubs, concert halls and on many radio programs.

Mrs. Barney can detect color by touch and cannot be deceived, and her fellow-workers have not yet become accustomed to the friendly compliments from this blind girl, such as, "That's a



good-looking dark brown suit you're wearing." She explains this by saying that she feels colors by their vibrations. She does not consider herself handicapped by any means, for she enjoys life to the full and the world in which she lives is perfect, untouched by sights that offend the physical vision.

✦

From Burlington, New Jersey, comes a story of courageous young Earl Moore, totally blind. His employer, James J. Reynolds, Jr., assistant to the president, has this to say:

"When we contemplated employing Mr. Moore, we entertained grave doubts as to whether a man totally blind could possibly adapt himself to the somewhat confusing activities of this industry.

"Our doubts, however, were very soon dispelled by the manner in which this young man took hold of his job and soon earned the respect and confidence of his fellow workers. His earnings are on a par with those sighted workers doing the same work. I recall that when Moore was employed eighteen months ago, he became the first blind man ever to work in an iron foundry in this country and from the record which he is establishing, we would say that the field of activity for those handicapped in a similar manner has been broadened materially."

✦

Although encased in a wall of darkness and silence, Mrs. Grace Fleener of Burlington, Iowa, has found partial compensation in the fact that she has proven to be, and is considered a competent, normal employee in the Iowa Ordnance Plant at Burlington. Without sight and without hearing, Mrs. Fleener could not rest until she found an outlet for her energy and a way to effectually express the patriot-

ism and love she has for her country.

With some misgivings, the Ordnance plant allowed her to start and found, to their surprise and pleasure, that she was completely in earnest and learned quickly. Consequently, in a very short time she was performing capably the tasks given her to do, and earning the capacity wage for her line of work. The end of her daily working hours, however, does not finish her day. Mrs. Fleener manages her home with the same deftness and capability that characterize her work, and is a competent homemaker for her deaf mute husband and their normal, 18-month-old daughter.

✦

Eugene Reigh of Allentown, Pennsylvania, totally blind for the last six years, decided two years ago when he was nineteen, that he could handle a lathe as well as any of his friends. That was not the end of it, however. It took two years and stubborn determination to convince the personnel directors of various industrial plants that he could do it. Recently, at twenty-one, he succeeded and, through his own efforts, secured a position at the Roller-Smith plant at Bethlehem, Pa. After three and a half months' work, his superiors claim that his work is equal to that of sighted persons in all respects and far superior to theirs in several types of work.

Partially blind since early childhood, Eugene received his education at Overbrook School of the Blind in Philadelphia, where he learned several crafts, in addition to operating a lathe. Unable to obtain work in competition with sighted persons, Eugene was placed as instructor of hand work and carpentry at the Bethlehem Workshop of the Northampton County Association for the Blind. In 1937 he became totally



blind. Now he is entirely happy for at last he is doing what he knew he could do,—helping to support the home for his mother, grandmother and himself.



Blinded in World War I, Chester F. Lancaster, 46, of Los Angeles, is making a valuable contribution to the present war effort by tending a Victory garden. He has not only developed a model home garden practically unaided, but has been a leader in the community's garden effort.

He was one of the first to enroll in the Victory Garden Club and in the garden contest sponsored by the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce. With the exception of actual planting, Lancaster takes care of the cultivation of his entire garden, working with his sensitive fingers among the growing plants and harvesting their produce. Lancaster is vitally interested and is carrying on considerable work among other blind veterans of World War I.

### THE TRAINS MUST GO THROUGH

(Continued from Page 4)

an inherent liking for them that didn't get play while he was in construction work, probably because he was too busy as well as self-centered, led Watts to become a "joiner" as soon as he finished his rehabilitation studies. He went to church, and soon became interested in Sunday School, as well as church activities. He joined the Kiwanis Club, and became a ring-leader. He was elected secretary-treasurer of the Young Men's Business Club.

His development as a "mixer", as well as the constant contacts with legis-

lators that were necessary in managing the association, drew him into politics. He ran for the Virginia General Assembly, was elected, and sat in it from 1926 to 1934. In that position, "Watty" was a living exhibit in proof of what a blinded person could become, and during his period as a legislator, work for the blind in Virginia advanced to its high level.

Mr. Watts is married, and has one daughter. His wife was Miss Hazel Virginia Birkenmeyer. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and the Lions' Club, and also the West Richmond Business Men's Association.

National recognition of his work, and personality, came in June, 1935, when he was unanimously elected President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, after he, as First Vice-President, filled out the unexpired term of President Herman M. Immeln, whose untimely death necessitated this action.

### EVERY BLIND WORKER MADE GOOD

(Continued from Page 7)

Always able to take good care of himself by his earnings, in a field where his handicap was not as severe as in other employment for the blind, he has found time to try "selling" blind people to employers, especially in the industrial lines.

Not until war, has he been able to actually place blind factory workers. But they have justified his confidence in them by making good. He feels that in this, as in most other things, the situation will not revert to the old basis after the war—that ambitious blind workers will find opportunities for self-support and self-respect.





# MEMBERSHIPS

The activities the Braille Institute sponsors for the social and economic welfare of the blind are sustained through voluntary contributions of the public, bequests and membership dues, as follows:

Patron . . . . .	\$5.00
Supporting . . . . .	10.00
Contributing . . . . .	25.00
Associate . . . . .	50.00
Sustaining . . . . .	100.00
Life . . . . .	1,000.00

Membership applications will be mailed on request. Those who may not care to become members can assist by contributing any amount, large or small. Such contributions may be specified as for a definite activity.

Contributions and membership fees are deductible from Income Tax.

## ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

On Sale At

BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

Grooved Writing Card (for longhand writing) . . . . .	Postpaid \$ .15
Braille paper, Sunset Tympan, 75#, 9 x 12, per pound . . . . .	.17
Braille paper, roll Manila, 9 x 12, per pound . . . . .	.15
American Red Cross Braille Paper, 100 sheets . . . . .	.45
Standard Typewriter Keyboard Chart (in Braille) . . . . .	Postpaid .15
Playing Cards, Brailled . . . . .	.75 and 1.00
Braille Dominoes, interlocking . . . . .	1.00
Checkerboard and Men . . . . .	.75

ITEMS NOT MARKED "POSTPAID" ARE SUBJECT TO POSTAGE CHARGE AND SALES TAX IN CALIFORNIA



*Buy . . .*

**WAR BONDS**

*and . . .*

**STAMPS . . Now!**





# ACTIVITIES

1) Social Welfare—work with local blind, and in some cases with the blind in other localities, having to do with personal adjustment problems created by blindness, including the donation of appliances or free services when necessary.

2) Home Teaching—free instruction in reading and writing raised print (Braille and Moon Type) and typewriting.

3) Business Guidance — consultation and other services, including business loans, to the employable blind and the sponsorship of vocational literature.

4) Library Service — free circulation of books in raised print and talking book records to the blind of California and Arizona.

5) Literature — sponsorship of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay.

6) Printing and distribution of the King James Version of the Bible, in Braille, Grade One and a Half, free to the blind or at special prices below production cost.

7) Research—the development of appliances for the blind; consultation and other services to blind individuals and organizations.

8) Operation of a printing department — on a non-commercial basis — for the publication of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types sponsored by the Braille Institute or by other agencies.



The welfare activities of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as set forth above, are broad enough to meet the social and economic needs of the blind and partially blind in every walk of life.

They are maintained to the extent funds make possible without respect to race, color or creed.

With no assistance from the community chest of Los Angeles, with no governmental aid, State or Federal, and with limited endowments to date, the Institute must look to voluntary contributions of the public, and to its membership dues, for the maintenance of these activities.

The opportunity to help the blind, where help is most needed, administered by an institution, efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the problems of the physically blind, is always available through the activities of the Braille Institute.



# OPPORTUNITY...

Readers of *Light* are cordially invited to investigate the worthiness of the Braille Institute of America, Inc. as beneficiary in their wills, insurance policies or war bonds.

Under its charter as a non-profit, non-sectarian California corporation, the Braille Institute is empowered to receive and accept for the purposes of the corporation, gifts, donations, bequests, and devices of money and property, and to perform any conditions which may be stipulated by the donors.

It may be said that the "purposes of the corporation" are broad enough in scope to meet the social and economic

needs of persons blinded in adulthood in every walk of life. For this reason and because the administrative staff of the Braille Institute is efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the needs of the blind and to determine where and how blind welfare service can best be applied for the amelioration of physical blindness, the Trustees prefer that bequests should not be limited or restricted for specific purposes. However, donors may feel assured that if their bequests are particularly designated, the instruction of the donors will be observed to the letter.



Managing Director of the Braille Institute, delivering to Arthur L. Sonderegger, Treasurer, a Series G War Bond for \$1,000.00. This is only one of several securities left to the Braille Institute as residuary legatee in the will of the late Dora M. Biethan.



## FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

## FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

## CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of

.....(or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of

....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the <sup>testator</sup> as and for a Codicil to <sup>his</sup> last Will dated.....  
<sub>testatrix</sub> <sub>her</sub>

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at <sup>his</sup> request and in <sup>his</sup> presence, and in the presence of each other,  
<sub>her</sub> <sub>her</sub>  
have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....







# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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Vol. XVI, No. 2

January, 1944



## UNCLE SAM PUTS HIS FOOT IN THE DOOR

By JAMES H. COLLINS

**P**LACING blind people in real jobs, on private payrolls, is a career in itself. Somebody has to go around to employers, proving that the blind are not what sighted people suppose them to be.

It calls for salesmanship, and the salesman may have to put his foot in the crack of the door to get a hearing. Because, he is up against sales resistance of long standing—the idea that blind people are down and out.

War work opened many doors, and now Uncle Sam puts his foot in the crack, to hold these doors open, through the Barden-LaFollette act, passed by Congress last summer, which provides money, on a 50-50 basis with the states, to place the blind in private em-



*Notations in Braille for ready reference help blind placement agent when checking for accuracy with sighted secretary.*

ployment, through state employment and rehabilitation organizations.

California has been prompt in implementing this new law, and the first salesman, Anthony E. Septinelli, has qualified in a civil service examination, and is at work.

Mr. Septinelli is blind. Some difference of opinion still exists as to whether placements under the new law



should be done by blind or sighted workers, but in California it is believed that the blind are qualified by practical experience. So, Septinelli is attached to the Los Angeles Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Department of Education.

Born in Rochester, New York, forty-five years ago, and blind from childhood, Septinelli was educated in Rochester schools, the New York State School for the Blind, and at the University of Rochester, where he studied social sciences, and went on to Columbia University, studying vocational guidance.

Besides eighteen years' experience with the New York Association for the Blind, as a field agent in placement work, and other organization activities, he has held jobs in factories and laboratories. So, he understands work, as well as the blind, and where there is work to be done, is capable of analyzing the many different operations in a complicated process, and picking out those that are within the abilities of blind people—and then selecting and training blind people who can do that work.

All of which is needed in selling the blind into jobs—and more.

Until war made it necessary for employers to try blind people, and see what they could do, there was a pretty solid front of skepticism to be penetrated. The employer might shut his own eyes, and try to walk across his office, bump into a chair, and declare, "There! see what happens? If I can't cross my own office, how could a blind man do it?"

Septinelli "sold" blind people into jobs against that resistance, and now, with many employers willing to concede that the blind might be satisfactory workers — in somebody else's

plant—he goes on to dispel other doubts and objections.

"What kind of work could blind people do here?" is the next question.

"Let me see what kind of work you do," he suggests, and in one factory recently he spent two days on the different shifts, performing twenty-three operations, of which fourteen were within the abilities of the blind.

"Well, how are your blind people going to get here?" is the next obstacle. Transportation is as important as training in placement.

The blind travel in four ways—with a guide dog, with a white cane, with a sighted guide, or alone, using cars and motorbuses.

The best answer to that is, facts about how blind workers are getting to their jobs in other plants.

The first twenty-three placements made under this new law in California involved four blind workers traveling alone without guide or cane; three with white canes; three guided by people; three by dogs.

But ten traveled with the dim vision of the "legally blind".

So, nearly half of the sight-handicapped people seeking jobs have enough vision to get around.

A little experience with blind employees teaches sighted people that they are not only able to get around safely, but that they delight in doing it. Moreover, the road to the factory is soon learned. They catch the same bus at the same time, and sighted fellow workers soon learn to give them whatever guidance they need.

Three of these workers are riveters, a kind of work that sighted people generally think is outside blind people's abilities. Actually, it is a job in which the blind worker has the guid-



ance of his co-worker, because it takes two to drive, or "buck" rivets.

Eight operate punch presses and other machines, usually considered unsafe for the blind, and eleven do various kinds of assembling work, which is generally the sort of factory operation that sighted people think is suited to the blind, if the operations can be performed by touch.

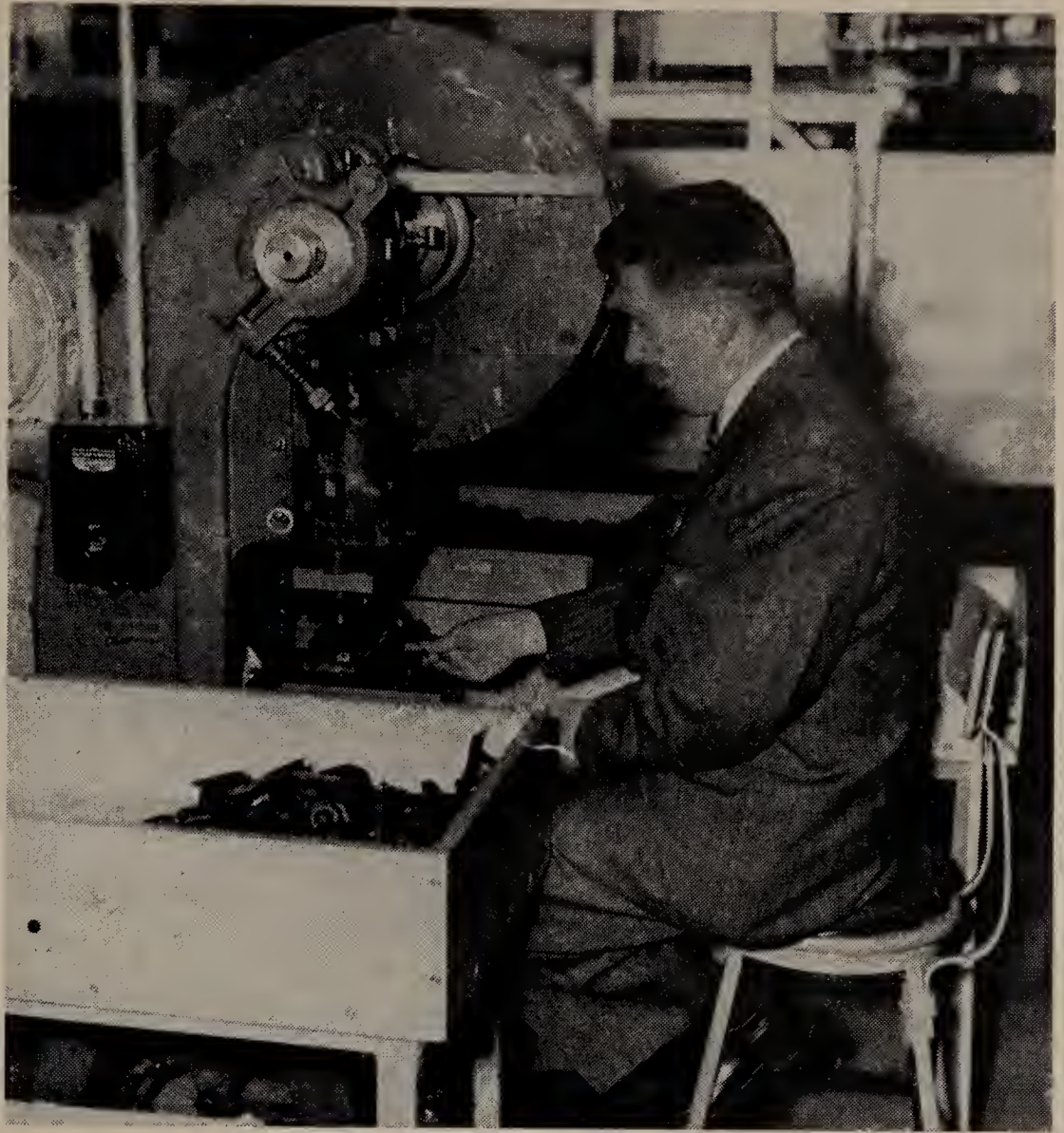
All but one of these blind workers are employed on skilled tasks, and to date, all but one is holding his or her job.

A good salesman is always looking for "prospects". Septinelli looks for two kinds—employers who will hire the blind, and blind men and women capable of filling specific jobs, usually after special training.

Septinelli frequently talks to service clubs and other audiences, as well as over the radio. He presents facts about jobs for blind people, is heard by many employers, and they either ask him for more information, or know him when he calls on them. He is constantly going around to factories, studying processes, dispelling apprehensions.

He talks to the blind at gatherings, and in their homes, and builds files of information that help him select individuals for training and definite jobs.

The range of jobs is impressive. In factories, the blind can operate ma-



*Septinelli proving to himself mechanical operations blind workers can perform.*

chines, do assembly and inspection work, perform clerical tasks. In offices, they are suited to dictaphone typing, reception, mailing and the like. In hospitals, they make good masseurs, orderlies, clerical workers. In other fields they may become teachers, supervisors, personnel assistants.

Proper placing involves a detailed knowledge of the degree of handicap, health, initiative in getting around, previous working experience. When the job is skilfully fitted to the applicant, the blind person makes good, and creates a "cell" of understanding for other blind workers. The blind are exceedingly anxious to make good, for themselves, and for others with the same handicap.

Follow-up after placement, and consulting service to employers who have

*(Continued on Page 21)*



# OUR TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

PURSUANT to call, members of the Braille Institute of America, Inc. held their annual meeting at the Institute's headquarters, 741 North Vermont Avenue, November 8, for the purpose of electing trustees for the ensuing year and to receive reports on welfare service rendered to the blind for the fiscal year ending September 30, last.

This was the twenty-fourth annual meeting in the Institute's existence. One hundred three members attended in person and by proxy.

During these twenty-four years, the records show steady gain despite conditions which, by nature, have been anything but conducive to progress in nearly every field of endeavor, benevolent as well as commercial. Today, the welfare activities of the Braille Institute are broad enough to meet the needs of the physically blind in every walk of life, to the extent available funds make possible.

The following persons, all incumbents, were reelected as officers and trustees for the ensuing year: Robert A. Odell, President; J. Robert Atkinson, Vice-President; John W. Tapley, Secretary; Arthur L. Sonderegger, Treasurer; Herman O. Meyer, Assistant Treasurer; Dr. Lowell C. Frost, Arthur C. Pesterre and Cecil Whitehead.

Ten trustee meetings were held during the year and were well attended. These meetings were held at the office of the president in downtown Los Angeles.

In the interest of economy, it has seemed well this year to streamline the departmental reports as much as possible. But in so doing, members

are reminded that reports made by the heads of all departments are furnished monthly to the Trustees and are on file, available to all members who may wish to examine them in detail.

## *Treasurer's Summarized Report*

A certified audit of the records for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1943, made by the auditing firm of Aye & Brown, is also on file in the office for the examination of members.

This certified audit revealed that the Institute's disbursements for the fiscal year in behalf of the social and economic welfare of the blind of the State and Nation aggregated \$65,788.51, covering the following activities: social welfare, \$8,395.50; home teaching, \$3,178.09; business guidance and placement, \$1,731.26; free lending library, \$14,900.59; literature published and distributed, \$37,583.07.

Many new members were added during the year and a substantial increase in contributions and bequests was reported over previous years, notably from the estates of Dora M. Biethan, Charles J. Chisam, and Mrs. I. B. Stetson.

Gradually but slowly, through the years, the Institute is accumulating permanent endowments, only the earned income from which is to be used for welfare service from time to time, unless circumstances are such as to justify some other plan.

Already it is not premature to say that, by reason of these bequests and some donations, the Institute has made a good start towards the fulfillment of its objective, the establishment of permanent endowments such as in-



stitutions for the blind in the East now enjoy,—endowments that will insure the perpetuity of the Braille Institute of America, Inc. in the field of social and economic welfare of the blind as long as there is a semblance of such need. The Cause is worthy, for the Braille Institute is the only one of its kind, private or public, west of the Rocky Mountains, or even west of the Mississippi River which today is adequately equipped and efficiently organized to cope intelligently with the needs of the adult blind in every walk of life.

### *Braille Bible Distribution*

On December 1, 1937, the Braille Institute acquired the assets and activities of the Braille Bible Society, Inc., a California corporation, devoted to the printing and distributing of the King James Version of the Bible in Braille, Grade One and a Half, on a non-profit basis, and free to those unable to pay any portion of the production cost. This activity started originally about the same time that the forces which gave rise to the establishment of the Braille Institute were inaugurated.

Through these years there has been a steady demand for the Bible in Braille with the result that at the close of the twenty-fourth fiscal year of the Institute, on September 30, 1943, 16,400 volumes of the Scriptures in Braille had been distributed to the English-reading blind of the world. By far the majority of these volumes were distributed entirely free. In cases where the blind were desirous of paying something and were able, special prices were made which were always less than one-half the actual production cost. At the present time, the cost of producing

the Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, aggregates \$52.50.

By special act of Congress, Braille Bibles which are given free are transported through the mails free of postage. By a provision in this same act, if the Scriptures are sold at a price not to exceed cost, they may be transported at the special rate of 1¢ a pound. It is well that this is so. Otherwise, the postal cost at regular rates would obviously necessitate a curtailment in distribution as the funds available for this purpose have never been commensurate with the demand.

This Braille Bible service may well be regarded as one of the Institute's major activities. To many of the blind, even those who never before read the Bible, it becomes the Book of books in name and in deed, bringing to them solace and spiritual light afforded by no other service.

An imperative need now confronting the Braille Institute is the replacement of the Braille plates for the King James Version of the Bible, at an approximate cost of \$5,000. The plates now being used were made in 1927. They have served well since that time, millions of Braille pages having been printed from them. But, like all other things material, such plates wear out.

Here is a golden opportunity for someone, to whom Providence has been especially kind, to underwrite the cost of these plates. Such a gift would represent a constant spiritual contribution to the English-reading blind throughout the world for the life of the plates, which would be about fifteen years.

With the contributor's consent, in gratitude for such a gift, an acknowledgment page, in both ink print and



Braille, might be included in every volume of the Bible printed from the plates throughout the years.

The work will be printed in inter-point Braille, Grade One and a Half, as in the past. But as an added help for orthodox Sunday School use, the chapters and verses will be arranged for systematic reference study, using chapter headings which can be compiled separately in a topical index handbook. These headings were omitted in the previous edition to save space. Obviously their inclusion will be a great help to the student. For example: if you wanted to read the story of David and Goliath, of Joseph and his coat of many colors, etc., could you turn to them in your Bible without the use of a topical index or concordance?

To anyone who may be interested in helping to meet, or in meeting this imperative need for new Bible plates, further information will be gladly furnished and personal interviews granted.

#### *Social Welfare*

The Bureau of Social Welfare reported that during the year 64 major and 235 minor cases have been added, bringing the total number served since the establishment of the bureau to 1,522. Through this bureau radios are furnished free to the blind and a constant repair service of radios and talking book machines is maintained without charge to those unable to pay.

Most of the talking book machines on which literature is recorded on long-playing phonograph records have been furnished to the blind by the United States Government as a loan through The Library of Congress. The California State Library, Sacramento, is the agency in California which places these machines among the needy

blind and, by the same token, is responsible for keeping them in working order. As the State Library has no funds nor appropriations for this purpose, the free repair service furnished by the Braille Institute to talking book borrowers in Southern California, therefore, constitutes not only an indispensable service to the blind themselves but also a cooperative service to the State Library. The labor cost of this service averages approximately \$65 a month, exclusive of parts which are furnished by the Government.

Social welfare assistance was given for medical aid which included fees for hospitalization required for eye operations. Assistance for dentures, glass eyes and fees for practical nursing was also given.

One of the eye operations in the hospitalization fees above mentioned was very successful for one man. Before the cataracts blinded him, he was a trained arc welder; but at the time of the operation he was receiving \$50 a month State Aid under California's Law for the Needy Blind. According to insurance actuaries, he had an expectancy of twenty years. The operation was successful to the extent that he is now employed at the Douglas Aircraft plant as a sighted man, thus removing him from receiving State Aid. At the rate of \$50 a month, as a needy blind person, this means that the operation likely has saved the taxpayers of California \$12,000 for his twenty years' expectancy. But by far more important than this is the freedom, independence and self-respect restored to him.

#### *Home Teaching*

A total of 74 students received in-



struction in Braille or Moon Type in their homes during the year; and 74 received special help, either by correspondence or personal contact. Of the regular students, 22 completed the course in Braille or Moon Type.

A total of 2,887 miles was traveled, 464 home teaching calls and 56 welfare calls were made. Two volunteer home teachers were active during the year, in addition to the regular home teacher permanently employed. To these volunteers, Mrs. L. L. Aldridge and Mrs. Edith Feeney, gratitude is herewith expressed for their capable, unselfish service.

Instruction in reading Braille to the blind residing in rural districts throughout the State and the West Coast where it is not possible for the teachers to call in person has been greatly facilitated through the Braille Institute's primers, three in number. The first primer, Grade One, contains an instruction course in ink printing, sufficient to enable sighted persons to assist the blind in their families or communities in mastering the primary course. From this point on, the course is self-instructional to the blind student. All instruction in the second primer, Grade One and a Half, is given in Grade One Braille which he has already mastered. Likewise, in the third primer, Grade Two, the instruction is published in Grade One and a Half Braille. These primers are available free to blind applicants or at 50¢ each, postpaid, and they are sold or furnished singly, as requested.

#### *Library*

Perhaps one of the most important changes during the year was the removal of the Braille Institute Library into a larger building at 721 North Vermont Avenue which is located nearer the Institute's headquarters,

there being only two vacant lots between. A three-year lease was signed for the building which is adequate to meet the needs for that period. The expense of maintaining and operating the library for the year, as listed in the financial statement, reflects this moving cost.

As many of the members of the Braille Institute know, this library is one of the twenty-six regional libraries located at strategic points in the United States and its insular possessions, which distribute literature published by The Library of Congress under a Federal appropriation granted for that purpose in 1931. The territory covered by the library includes the blind of California, Arizona and portions of Nevada. The library records show that 729 borrowers were served during the past year, consisting of readers of Braille and Moon types and of users of literature on sound reproduction records, styled Talking Books. To these were mailed, free of postage, 1,902 Braille volumes, 268 Moon volumes and 5,059 talking book cartons.

By special Act of Congress all literature for the blind which carries no advertisements, published in any form, may be sent free of postage to and from the borrowers. The Law provides, however, that such literature must be mailed to a blind person by a library which has applied for and received a permit from the Postal Department, and returned by the blind person to the library. In other words, this free permit does not apply to literature mailed by the blind to each other, or by institutions selling or giving literature free, direct to the blind.

The library stock now consists of 10,189 Braille volumes, 1,200 Moon volumes and 1,791 cartons of talking book records, as well as current maga-



zines, in both Braille and Moon types and on sound reproduction records.

#### *Printing Department*

The Library of Congress has instituted a policy this year of printing limited editions of ten copies each of books of special interest. These books are distributed to the ten centrally located regional libraries. Of the 38 Braille titles awarded by The Library of Congress to the Braille Institute during the year, 8 were of these limited editions. This means that though the amount of work in the composition rooms remained fairly constant throughout the year, there was a decrease in the amount of press and bindery work. The lull in the bindery and press work was compensated for by running a reprint edition of Webster's Students Dictionary in thirty-two volumes and reprinting volumes of the Bible as needed.

Despite the high degree of labor turnover, a nucleus of skilled, highly trained and loyal employees has been retained. Apprenticeships are long and costly, and it often takes many months to replace an experienced operator.

As of September 30, there were 15 full-time employees in this department, one less than last year, and 3 part-time employees. Of these employees, 30% are without physical sight or are partially sightless.

#### *Building and Ground*

Although all building operations must necessarily be held in abeyance until after the duration, yet architectural plans have been and are being tentatively developed for consideration and approval. Negotiations for a building site are also in process.

It is extremely desirable, as well as economically advantageous to estab-

lish permanent headquarters for the Institute under its own "rooftree", with adequate space to house all of its present welfare activities as well as expansion needs in the future. So far as can be envisaged at this time, a conservative estimate of 51,000 square feet of floor space would be required.

Tentative plans for the contemplated building have been segregated into units, as follows:

1. *Library.* To include home teaching rooms and individual reading and study rooms.

2. *Recreation.* To provide gymnasium, kitchen facilities, stage and auditorium for 300 persons, portable chairs and hardwood floor for dancing, individual studies and class rooms.

3. *Administration.* To provide reception room, filing and mailing rooms, accounting rooms, manager's office with secretarial rooms adjoining, editorial rooms and offices for all welfare activities.

4. *Industrial.* To provide engineer's office, machine shop space for repair services of institutional equipment, radios and talking book machines, Braille writers, etc., with additional space for research and for manufacturer's appliances for the blind, small industrial training quarters incidental and necessary to placement work, and a display room.

5. *Publishing House.* To provide superintendent's office, composing rooms, proofreading rooms, press room, bindery, sound recording studios, stock room, shipping department, etc.

When presenting the foregoing building plans, Mr. Atkinson, the Institute's managing director, expressed the belief that when the time came, ample funds would be available for the erection of facilities adequate to

(Continued on Page 19)



## ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

**N**O ONE will deny that zeal without knowledge is too often a dangerous thing for the good of society, or for the individual. The fact that such zeal is often expressed by well-intentioned persons does not change the complexion, so one can never go wrong by concluding, in every case, that zeal which outruns discretion is not only ill-advised, but undesirable at the outset.

Judging by the daily papers up and down the West Coast and by editorials and appeals sponsored by various groups, about all the selected service men, blinded in World War II, have to look forward to is to be led about by so-called guide dogs. Fortunately, this is not the case.

The thought of having to be led through the streets of our cities and towns by guide dogs, however faithful, does not and will not bring to those courageous men, blinded in service, the inspiration, satisfaction and encouragement necessary to initiate and complete their successful rehabilitation.

In time, a few of these blinded veterans may want guide dogs and find them useful. The great majority will not, if the experience and preference of the average civilian blinded adult are to be considered as a criterion. The original guide dog organization in America, The Seeing Eye, Inc., Morristown, New Jersey, is the authority for this statement. According to its experience and observation through the years, scarcely 10% of the civilian blind can be trained successfully to use guide dogs, and it is consistent to add that of these 10%, probably there are not more than 3% who actually want guide dogs, even though they could be trained to use them.

It is contemplated, therefore, that the percentage of blind veterans for whom guide dogs will be desirable will be approximately the same and this would, we believe, indicate that the number will not be large.

According to newspaper reports, there is a nation-wide movement now on to raise \$1,500,000 with which to furnish guide dogs to blind veterans. Among these newspaper clippings is a dispatch from Douglas, Arizona, announcing that Arizona's quota in this plan is to be \$30,000. It is further stated by the proponents of this drive that the average cost of training a student and his dog approximates \$500.00.

On the other hand, \$350.00 is sufficient to pay for a dog, his training and the training of a student, according to Captain Lambert A. Kreimer. This price includes board and room for the student during his training period and complete equipment for the dog. Captain Kreimer was the first man to train a dog to lead a blinded soldier in France in 1916, and between 1919 and 1929, he was employed by the German Government in training dogs for blinded veterans. With kennels at 118 South Virginia, Burbank, California, he has already furnished many dogs to the blind in California, at \$250.00 each, all of which are working satisfactorily.

Admitting these costs as correct and on the aforesaid basis of 3% as the estimated number of blinded veterans who actually want guide dogs, and conceding that there are as yet fewer than 100 blinded veterans, if our information is correct, the \$60,000 or \$75,000 already raised is more than sufficient for the present.

Obviously, using the above figures, the goal of \$1,500,000, if reached,



would furnish guide dogs to more than 4,000 blinded veterans at \$350.00 each or to 3,000 at \$500.00 each. Where will the movement find that number of blinded veterans to use the dogs? Certainly, it is hoped and staunchly believed by executives and professionals qualified to express a prediction, there will not be anywhere near that number of servicemen and women blinded in this conflict.

The Amercian Association of Workers for the Blind, a nation-wide association of men and women professionally engaged in serving the blind in many different fields and in many ways, and with a large membership from many bona fide public agencies—Federal, State, county, city—and also from numerous private agencies, has devoted considerable thought to the problems connected with the rehabilitation of those from the armed forces suffering the loss of their sight. In order to do a more effective piece of work, a special "Committee on the War Blind" was established even before this country became a participant in the fighting, knowing that it would inevitably follow that there would be work for this Committee to undertake.

The Committee has earnestly studied the problem, has developed certain philosophies which it has communicated to all branches of the Federal Government concerned,—the U. S. Surgeon General, the Surgeon General of the Navy, the Surgeon General of the Army, and to General Frank T. Hines, head of the Veterans' Administration. The Committee has had numerous conferences with these officials during the course of which the official attitude of the Association with respect to a proper rehabilitation program for blinded servicemen and women, and

use or non-use of guide dogs was communicated to them.

As a result, it might be helpful to outline here, in part, the official attitude of the Veterans' Administration in Washington:

1. The social adjustment training of each blind veteran should include well-organized, well-directed, intensive training in *getting about alone*.

2. Guide dogs are not the best solution to the problem in the average case for various reasons, among which there may be mentioned the following:

(a) They tend to impress on the public the ability of dogs rather than of blind persons.

(b) Dogs prevent especially newly blinded persons from learning to go about alone, or in cases where such ability has been acquired, cause them to lose confidence in themselves to go about without a guide.

(c) They impress the public with the dependence rather than the independence of blind persons.

(d) Dogs are not feasible, practical or desirable in certain occupations.

(e) They are frequently undesirable in crowds and are often barred from certain places.

(f) And they frequently annoy and sometimes embarrass people without blind persons being aware of it, and thus cause them to avoid the blind.

(g) The dogs sometimes bite people, cause a disturbance, or are in other ways, a nuisance which causes the blind embarrassment.

(h) They sometimes give off odor and shed hair, causing people to shun their blind owners.

On October 23, 1942, a sub-committee of the Association's Committee on the War Blind met in Washington, D. C. and prepared for submission to the



proper Government official, responsible for the rehabilitation of blinded service men and women, a few pertinent points as follows:

1. The men serving in our armed forces who become disabled during the course of the war must have the best care and planning that the country can offer.

2. Since blindness creates highly individual problems, the program of service to the war-blinded service men and women should be separated from the general rehabilitation program for the war-disabled.

3. The program should employ all existing facilities—public and private, National, State and local—to the greatest extent practicable.

4. Since the men of our armed forces serve our whole people, the responsibility for their care and rehabilitation should fall squarely upon the people as a whole and should, therefore, be an undertaking of the Federal Government.

5. The program should be comprehensive and include follow-up services planned over a period of many years.

6. The program should include parallel services, including exchange facilities, for members of the armed forces of the United Nations who have lost their sight and who are residents within the jurisdictional scope of the program, with adequate plans for the repatriation of such persons after the war.

7. The program's services should be made available not only to those civilians attached to the armed forces of the United States, but also to the members of the Merchant Marine who may lose their sight in service.

8. During and following rehabilitation, the pension rates of the members of the armed forces losing their sight

should be maintained intact regardless of the earning power which they may develop as a result of the rehabilitation program.

9. Civilians who lose their sight through war action—bombing, sabotage, etc.—should be handled through regularly established public and private agencies in their own localities, the Federal Government meeting the entire cost.

To discourage any proposal to furnish guide dogs to the blinded service men, either discriminately or indiscriminately, and because there are so many factors to be considered as to whether or not blinded veterans should be furnished with dogs, the Association has, through a resolution, officially placed itself on record as recommending (to the Federal and other authorities concerned), "that no approach should be made to a war-blinded person regarding his acquisition of a guide dog during his period of hospitalization and preliminary training and adjustment, and that no decision in respect to the use of a guide dog should be made until the relationship between the vocation to be followed and the need of a dog can be determined."

But assuming a decision has been made that a man needs and should have a dog, there is first, the matter of just how many such cases are likely to occur; second, whether the number of cases requires and would justify the gathering of large funds for the purpose; third, how such funds should be provided; and fourth, who should be asked to undertake the training of the men involved and the furnishing of dogs for their use.

The number of cases likely to need dogs is highly speculative and will, to some extent, depend upon the total



number of war-blinded veterans. No such large numbers of service-connected blindness appear as yet to have occurred as have been inaccurately reported in the newspapers and elsewhere.

This would make it obvious that no large funds will need to be accumulated for the purpose of furnishing guide dogs, especially since the original guide-dog organization, The Seeing Eye, Inc. of Morristown, New Jersey, has publicly declared that its policy has been accommodated to the present need and that while making no appeal whatsoever for funds to serve the war-blinded soldier, it will arrange to give all such cases prior consideration over civilian blind, and will furnish the training and dog for any blinded veteran whose need for this can be clearly demonstrated, without expense to the Government but rather, through the use of its present funds.

It might be added consistently here that the term, "guide dogs", as applied to these dogs, is a misnomer. They do not and cannot guide a blind man. He must know where he is going and how to get there. Otherwise, the dog and his master will find themselves in a vicious circle, going nowhere.

For example: The blind man with a well-trained dog, in a strange city, would be worse than lost, unless assisted by the public.

No! We are not opposed to the training of dogs and the blind to use them, under licensed regulation. We merely mean that zeal should not outrun discretion to the extent of permitting the raising of funds for these dogs and the training of them or, rather, the non-training of them by organizations not properly equipped and licensed.

For the items and assistance our

blinded veterans may need, in excess of what the Veterans' Administration, by law, can supply them, let patriotic groups and private groups of every name and nature depend upon, or work through the recognized welfare agencies for the blind, both private and public, in their respective communities.

By virtue of their recognition, based upon blind welfare service, they are in a position to know better how to administer such aid, than fly-by-night agencies or well-intentioned groups not experienced in rehabilitation work for the blind.

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### TRIBUTE TO THE BLIND

"Pity the blind!" say we.  
 Perhaps they see  
 Not ten times less,  
 But ten times more than we  
 Of all that matters most  
 In this warped world.  
 Are traffic signs upon the street  
 More vital to our erring feet  
 Than traffic signs within the heart  
 Which we, with eyes distracted by the  
     outward show,  
 So pitifully often do not heed?  
 "Pity the blind!" say we.  
 But also let them pity us,  
 Who see!

By Dr. Lowell C. Frost, Trustee  
 Braille Institute of America, Inc.

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Bear in mind that a War Bond, made out to the Braille Institute of America, Inc. will both increase its permanent endowment fund for the blind and perhaps prevent some of our boys at the front from being blinded. It will help to save the lives of others at the front.



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# L I G H T

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Published quarterly by Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles 27, California.

To acquaint the public with the problems of the physically blind, what they are doing to help themselves, and how society can help them through this institution.

Rate: \$2 a year. The subscription revenue is used for blind welfare service.

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor  
HELEN McWILLIAMS, Associate Editor

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## *What to Do?*

Some of our kind contributors say: Send no receipts; it is a waste of money. We want our contributions, all of them, to help the blind.

Others say: Why write us thank-you letters? They must cost time and money.

Our auditing firm says: Make out receipts for all contributions and make them out in duplicate. Whether you send receipts or not, we want them for examination at the close of your fiscal year.

A few good friends and generous contributors and members counsel us not to waste money on receipts and thank-you letters. They say: Give this to the blind.

Naturally, we wish to please all, especially our contributing friends and members. We wish to serve all, to the best of our ability,—benefactors and beneficiaries, alike. But we must observe the instructions of our certified accountants, else we will have none. We think our members and contributors really want us to do this.

So, "What to do?" is the ever recurring question. The answer, to us, wholly aside from the orders of certified public accountants, is the continuance of receipts and thank-you letters. Gratitude alone impels this action.

This policy, we believe, is fully justified in the following incident:

Not long ago, a kind gentleman sent us a contribution of \$25.00. A receipt and a thank-you letter were sent to him in due course. Not long after, he called in person at our headquarters. When introducing himself, he explained that he had sent a small contribution in the past and had received such a good letter of thanks, with an invitation to visit us, that he decided to come. When leaving, he mentioned that we would receive another contribution from him before very long.

Within a week thereafter, imagine our gratification to receive his check for \$1,000.00, with a letter saying that, after visiting the Braille Institute and learning firsthand of the splendid service being rendered, he felt we were worthy of help in that amount.

Of course, we have no way of knowing that this generous gentleman would not have come in anyway and given us his bountiful gift, had he received only a receipt for his former contribution. But we are still convinced that contributors in any amount deserve the consideration of a letter expressing our appreciation.

In the light of this experience, and others of a similar nature, we feel the query used for this caption, namely, "What to Do?" may be changed here to "What Else Can We Do?"



Make your gift to the blind perpetual. Buy a War Bond and make the Braille Institute its beneficiary. Your gift will be added to the Institute's permanent endowment fund and at the same time, your Bond very likely will prevent one or more in the service from losing their eyesight.

"Braille Institute of America, Inc." is the name to use as your Bond beneficiary.

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If time weighs heavily, see how it flits away by trying to find the word in the dictionary which you do not know how to spell.

It is too bad that someone hasn't produced a dictionary which spells automatically at the touch of a button in the field of sound recording.

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## Book-Care

Coincidental with the official adoption in America in 1917-18 of Grade One and a Half as a standard system of reading for the blind, until now, there has been a sincere, scientific effort on the part of Braille publishers, to raise the standard of books in Braille.

The improvement has been tremendous and satisfying to publishers, to readers, and to librarians, judging by reports. The Braille Institute has contributed its share to this accomplishment. The first to acclaim the improvement and high standard of workmanship, in printing and binding, characterized in the Braille Institute's books was Miss Annie E. Carson of the Cleveland Public Library (now retired). More than twenty years ago, Miss Carson complimented the Braille

Institute by saying publicly that it "has taken blindness out of books for the blind." To this might be added that other presses in the Nation have followed suit.

To the publishers and, we believe, to the readers, this progress is satisfying. However, it would seem that some librarians do not fully appreciate the effort the publishers have made to preserve a high standard of workmanship. Otherwise, more care would be exercised in preparing these books for the mails.

Recently, one of our Braille books was returned to us for minor repairs. The book was wrapped in thin paper, without even a piece of corrugated paper around it. It fairly made us sick to look at this volume and compare it with beautiful new volumes lying on our shipping table. The first thought, on the part of some employees was, "What's the use of being so particular, if our books are to be treated only in this careless fashion?" Temporarily, the management was tempted to agree.

The volume in question was badly mutilated. All the corners were broken, the back of the book was crushed out of shape and the beautiful, legible embossed dots on the page when it left our factory were flattened until in some instances they were almost to the point of blending together. No wonder many of the blind grow weary with reading Braille and turn to the Talking Book! To pick up a volume like this, coming from a library, is discouraging at the outset. Above all, it is anything but pleasant to look at, or to permit friends visiting the home, to see. Again the question, "What's the use?" which, perhaps, should have

(Continued on Page 21)



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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*William Hassett at work.*

William Hassett, of Los Angeles, blind since he was sixteen, is another faithful war worker who does not need his eyes to do the important work given him by American Aviation, Inc. On the assembly line with his sighted fellow-workers, he deftly sorts and fits the complicated instruments with which he works. Contentment shows in his face as he goes daily to the plant, accompanied by Pal, his faithful guide-dog.

Now 42, Mr. Hassett came to California a year ago. He confesses that more than business was involved. Eighteen years ago he met a young school-teacher in Redondo Beach, California. Circumstances intervened, keeping them apart. "But last year," said Mr. Hassett, "we decided to do something about it." Returning to the Coast, he again met and married his long-time sweetheart.





The present worldwide conflict has, in one way or another, drawn a great number of blind into its activities. As is being proven daily everywhere, it has at last liberated those without physical sight from the stigma of helplessness and dependence. They are constantly proving what they have long contended, that—given an opportunity, they are quite as capable and as thoroughly dependable as their sighted co-workers. Countless employers, surprised and enthusiastic, are frank in admitting that this is entirely true.

Among those blind workers are four patriotic young men in Rochester, New York, who are energetically taking a rap daily at Hirohito and Schicklgruber. Working together at an optical company, in that city, they are proving highly adept at the responsible assignments given them. The company's first blind employee was 27-year-old Tony Cimino, an honor student at Alfred University, where he studied law. The foreman was so pleased with his high standard of work that he immediately hired three more blind men, Paul Faas, 18, Harold Strassner, 19, and Angelo Gelsamino, 31, for inspection work. They learned quickly with Tony to guide them, by the process layouts he prepared in Braille, together with a Braille hand-book, also of his own arrangement, in Braille.

A word about Tony's hand-book: It is believed to be the first of its kind in the country and will probably be offered to blind war workers in other industries.



Blind since she was a child of five, Miss Margaret Hale of Omaha, Nebraska, now 23, has found a place in the war activities where she is definitely needed. Experienced in welfare work

in which she has been engaged on a full-time basis, she is specially fitted for the position of assistant instructor of Braille at San Francisco's Letterman General Hospital.

This involves teaching blind soldiers to read Braille, giving lessons in the use of the radio, talking books, games, checkers and chess. And, characteristic of a great number of blind workers, she makes this request:

"Those boys need all the help they can get and I hope to give it to them. I'd rather that there be no glamour, no sob stuff about it. I was chosen for the job because the Government apparently thought I could handle it. That's all there is to say."

Friends and co-workers are confident of her ability. They say that despite her handicap she has never been given — nor asked — special favors in doing her work. That's the way she wants it.



Young Jacob Tiversky, a senior at New York City College, is not noticeably letting blindness stand in the way of his further education, nor his enjoyment of school events. He weighs but 130 pounds but he keeps them firm and hard by wrestling. For three years he has maintained a perfect record in A. A. U. competition.

Recently he was honored by being awarded the Key and Lock, presented annually to the student most proficient in studies and athletics. It is not unusual for a blind student to win high honors in his studies, but it is unusual to win them in athletics, as well. Jacob is specializing for teacher of history at Columbia University and is working for his Ph.D. this year. Blind since a child, it would seem young Jacob is enjoying as normal a life as any of his sighted friends.





From Bingen, Washington, comes word of the honor bestowed upon Obed Olson, blind farmer in that vicinity. He was recently singled out and made guest of honor at the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Mount Adams, Washington, as a man of unusual ability and resourcefulness. Mr. Olson, losing his sight but three years ago, is carrying on a weaving industry that, with the products of his 20-acre farm, gives him and his family a comfortable living.

Knowing that he was facing inescapable blindness, Mr. Olson philosophically prepared for it by going to Seattle where he took an eight months' course in weaving. Farsighted, he made arrangements beforehand with the company for which he works and was supplied with a 36-inch loom. After two years of experience in the manufacture of carpet warp, he is now weaving woolen materials and is able to finish eight yards a day. His farm,

with its fine acreage, garden, orchard, cows and chickens, and his work keep Mr. Olson occupied. He is able, with the assistance of his wife and two children, to attend to everything, without aid from others.



Miss Rose Resnick, of Eureka, California, blind pianist and entertainer, is finding a great deal to do nowadays. She is much in demand, for her programs are widely known and liked. Accomplished in classical music, she is able, as well, to break into popular selections, to the great delight of her younger admirers. Miss Resnick is a graduate of Hunter's College, New York, winning a scholarship for further study of music in France. She has also won first place in a contest sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs and has recently received her master's degree in music from the University of California at Los Angeles.



## ANNUAL REPORT

(Continued from Page 10)

house all the welfare activities of the Institute. These facilities, when fully expanded, according to plans, will develop the Braille Institute into a powerful lighthouse on the Pacific Coast for all who are navigating the dark waters of physical blindness.

### Conclusion

The Board of Trustees feel very grateful to all members, contributors and friends for the generous financial and moral support which has made it possible for the Institute to expand its welfare service to the Nation's blind, steadily through the years.

They are grateful, too, for the opportunity afforded to serve actively in such a worthy Cause, a Cause which is destined, under the grace of a kind Providence, to liberate many thousands from the bondage of limitation and lack, imposed by the loss of physical sight.

And now, as the Braille Institute of America, Inc. begins its Silver Anniversary year of welfare service, its Board of Trustees and the staff members pledge themselves to make it the most bountiful of all preceding years for the social and economic betterment of the blind.



## "THIS LITTLE PIG GOES TO MARKET"

In the October, 1939, issue of *Light*, we editorialized under the caption, "Collective Giving", the tremendous advantage possible for our blind welfare work under the banner, "A penny a day drives darkness away." At that time we were floundering in the dark, as it were, just how a campaign of that kind could be successfully launched, practicably. We did not have to flounder long.

Through the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes, a long-time friend of the Braille Institute and member of its Advisory Board, the plan materialized spontaneously. It began by an inquiry from Mrs. Hughes if the Braille Institute would have any objection to her sending, at her own expense, several hundred colorful Mexican pottery pig banks to her personal friends,—east, west, north and south. Of course, we were both delighted and thankful that Mrs. Hughes wanted to do this. In December of that year (1939), Mrs. Hughes, therefore, mailed to her friends, several hundred of these piggy banks, bearing Christmas greetings and a message, "A penny a day drives darkness away," printed neatly on a colorful parchment label attached to the piggy bank.

Some time ago, when the copper shortage was acute and the Director of the United States Mint requested all pennies to be put into circulation for the saving of copper, we rather reluctantly asked all pig bankers to send their pigs to market. In that announcement, which appeared in January, 1943, *Light*, we suggested that the same results in saving a penny a day could be realized for the Institute's blind welfare fund under a substitute ban-

ner, "A dime every ten days drives darkness away." In effect, it was pointed out then, this would be asking no more than we were asking under the penny plan, while it offered an opportunity to those who could give more than a penny a day, to do so. We were not disappointed in this, as many of our friends, loyal to the Government and to the winning of the war, gladly rallied under the new banner. Proof of this is that one piggy bank that went to market brought in \$8.00 in dimes only, no other coins among them.

Later on, after coinage of the new pennies and the copper shortage seemed to have been overcome to some extent, it seemed proper and desirable to take up again the original banner, "A penny a day drives darkness away," which has been done.

That great good can be gained through collective giving, rightly organized, is more than evident by the fact that since these little piggies began to go to market, to the present time,





they have brought into the Braille Institute's welfare fund a total of \$4,232.83. And when the little piggies that have stayed at home decide it is time for them to go to market, this amount will be substantially increased, without doubt.

Recently, a pig bank came in, sacked, with its sides split wide open. And no wonder! It contained \$17.78 in nickels, dimes, quarters and pennies,—no paper money.

A very attractive feature of the plan, aside from its benevolent possibilities, is that it is simple enough to embrace universal humanity from the humblest to the mightiest. Its subscribers now include school children, teachers, authors, movie producers and directors, actors, opera singers, railway executives, brokers, judges, secretaries, stenographers, purchasing agents, housewives, merchants, salesmen, doctors, lawyers and too many others to list here.

To Mrs. Hughes and to all kind friends who have rallied under the "penny-a-day" banner, the Braille Institute trustees and staff members are deeply grateful. To all others who would like to take part in this campaign by saving as little as a penny a day, the Braille Institute will gladly furnish a Mexican pottery pig bank on request.

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#### BOOK CARE

(Continued from Page 16)

been used as a caption for this comment, recurs.

There is no excuse for books damaged in this way in the mails. There is a remedy. It is conceded, of course, that Braille books, passing constantly through the mails will, in time, become mutilated and worn and somewhat unsightly. Letterpress books, circulat-

ing from public libraries, in time show unsightliness, unsanitation and wear. But if librarians would insist upon being furnished with strong cartons in which to circulate their Braille and Moon books, the life thereof will be increased 100% and the joy to the readers, equally as much. True enough, the cartons will cost more. But the cost is justifiable in view of the original cost of producing Braille books on the present high standard of workmanship.

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#### UNCLE SAM

(Continued from Page 5)

taken on blind workers, is an important part of his detail.

How about the end of both wars?

Will the blind workers who have made good during the manpower shortage be discharged, along with the thousands of normal men and women—and boys and girls—who have been so actively recruited for war production?

Admittedly, the after-war picture is still vague. Nobody knows what is going to happen. But Septinelli believes that the blind will be treated pretty much like the sighted. In both cases, the workers who have shown efficiency will be kept on, for their ability. Already, war plants are rearranging their people from this standpoint.

During the war, hundreds of employers have learned the facts about the blind by employing them. That is a gain which will not be lost.

And back of it all, is Uncle Sam, with his foot in the door, ready to finance the training and placing of capable blind people, under a national law that was not enacted for the war emergency, but for the advancement of the blind in private employment.





*Pennsylvania Association for the Blind*, Pittsburgh, Pa.—The Pittsburgh Branch of the Association recently opened a training class for blind defense workers. It is being conducted at the Morse Vocational School in Pittsburgh. The class was made possible through the cooperation of the Pittsburgh Board of Education who undertook this project with the approval of the State Department of Education.

The psychological effect of such training, it is believed, is tremendous for it gives the sightless worker additional confidence in his ability to handle his new job. It is also a valuable weapon, according to J. B. Mohler, Executive Director of the Venango Country Branch of the Association, to aid in the diminishing of skepticism and doubt in the mind of the prospective employer of every employable blind person in the State.

\* \* \*

*National Institute for the Blind*, London, England. — Since September, 1939, the Institute has trained 53 blind telephone operators,—39 men, 14 women. Forty-seven of these trainees are now in full-time employment in the following groups: Government offices, local authorities, hospitals, commercial firms and public utility offices. The fact that the demand for blind operators now exceeds the supply affords a splendid opportunity of placing trainees in positions which carry some prospect of permanence.

\* \* \*

*Industrial Home for the Blind*, Brooklyn, New York.—The honor of

being awarded the Army-Navy "E", a distinction attained by the Industrial Home for the Blind on December 1, is unique, it being the first of this group to achieve the award. The accompanying letter stated that it "was merited by consistent high production, excellent quality of material, and low absenteeism."

Peter J. Salmon, Secretary of the Home, says: "We feel particularly pleased because of the recognition this gives to a group of handicapped persons who have really gone all-out in support of the armed forces. Moreover, it is an indication of the ability of blind persons to so overcome their own handicap as to be able to assist their country in time of need."

\* \* \*

*Los Angeles County Board of Public Assistance*, Los Angeles, California.—A report made to the Board of Supervisors recently disclosed that there are 85 former recipients of blind aid from Los Angeles County now holding positions in war industries and "have, in many instances, surpassed persons with normal sight, in efficiency."

A class for blind automobile mechanics, the first of its kind in the Nation, recently was formed at the Frank Wiggins Trade School. The first class has already graduated and those who have finished are having no difficulty in finding satisfactory employment.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution*, Watertown, Massachusetts.—Six boys and girls, living nearby, are now receiving two piano lessons a week from the Pianoforte Nor-



mal Course, conducted by the Perkins Music Department. Under supervision of the Department, advance piano students of the school give these lessons as part of their training to become professional music teachers. The Normal Course takes three years and work done in it is accepted by the New England Conservatory of Music.

Music is a subject of great interest at Perkins. The younger students are taught "sight-singing", as well as instrumental. This is reading the Braille music with their fingers, hearing it in their minds and singing it with their voices. The older students drift into groups wherein their voices place them and it is estimated that approximately four-fifths carry music on through with the rest of their work. Many find themselves well equipped to go on into higher musical training, upon finishing at Perkins.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's for Blinded Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London, England.—Sir Ian and Lady Fraser met the returning prisoners of war at Liverpool on October 26th. There were about 5,000 in all, of whom 700 came to Liverpool in the hospital ship, *Atlantis*, and it was this ship which brought the twenty-seven blinded soldiers and sailors home.

During the welcome and reception given the blinded men, Sir Ian commended the splendid work done by two men who had done much for them during the 3½ years' imprisonment—Major Charters, the ophthalmic surgeon, through whose skill many had recovered whole or partial sight; and Lord Normanby, who had brought them home. It was announced by the Chairman that Lord Normanby had been invited to become a Member of the Council of St. Dunstan's and had accepted.

*U. S. Civil Service Commission*, Washington, D. C.—The Commission reports that physically handicapped workers have been placed in positions ranging from clerical to unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled positions in heavy Government industries. They cite a few examples concerning the blind:

A blind girl at an Army Air Depot sorts bolts and nuts by touch. She works with unbelievable speed.

A blind radio technician is known as the only man who can repair airplane radios without removing them from the plane. He does not need to remove the radios because he doesn't need to "see" them, to do his work.

\* \* \*

Among the totally blind workers who have been employed in industry for the past forty years, there has not yet been a major compensable accident in any of the many plants and factories. The reason given is that the physically handicapped are more careful to obey safety regulations.

\* \* \*

*The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind*, New York, N. Y.—The new Vocational Guidance Program recently instituted at The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind is under the direction of Mr. Alan R. Blackburn, Research Associate. Mr. Blackburn has been recently affiliated with The New York Association for the Blind.

The primary purpose of the work Mr. Blackburn is undertaking consists of three main divisions: (1) A personal aptitude clinic. (2) A thorough study of jobs now available, and occupied by those who are without sight. (3) Assisting the adult agencies in the actual placement of the person in work for which he is best fitted.



# **OPPORTUNITY. . .**

Readers of *Light* are cordially invited to investigate the worthiness of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as beneficiary in their wills, insurance policies or war bonds.

Under its charter as a non-profit, non-sectarian California corporation, the Braille Institute is empowered to receive and accept for the purposes of the corporation, gifts, donations, bequests, and devices of money and property, *and to perform any conditions which may be stipulated by the donors.*

It may be said that the "purposes of the corporation" are broad enough in scope to meet the social and economic needs of persons blinded in adulthood in every walk of life. For this reason and because the administrative staff of the Braille Institute is efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the needs of the blind and to determine where and how blind welfare service can best be applied for the amelioration of physical blindness, the Trustees prefer that bequests should not be limited or restricted for specific purposes. However, donors may feel assured that if their bequests are particularly designated, the instruction of the donors will be observed to the letter.



## FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

## FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

## CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated .....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of ..... (or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of ..... 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will dated.....  
testatrix her

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....



# ACTIVITIES

1) Social Welfare—work with local blind, and in some cases with the blind in other localities, having to do with personal adjustment problems created by blindness, including the donation of appliances or free services when necessary.

2) Home Teaching—free instruction in reading and writing raised print (Braille and Moon Type) and typewriting.

3) Business Guidance — consultation and other services, including business loans, to the employable blind and the sponsorship of vocational literature.

4) Library Service — free circulation of books in raised print and talking book records to the blind of California and Arizona.

5) Literature — sponsorship of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay.

6) Printing and distribution of the King James Version of the Bible, in Braille, Grade One and a Half, free to the blind or at special prices below production cost.

7) Research—the development of appliances for the blind; consultation and other services to blind individuals and organizations.

8) Operation of a printing department — on a non-commercial basis — for the publication of books and magazines in Braille and Moon Types sponsored by the Braille Institute or by other agencies.



The welfare activities of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as set forth above, are broad enough to meet the social and economic needs of the blind and partially blind in every walk of life.

They are maintained to the extent funds make possible without respect to race, color or creed.

With no assistance from the community chest of Los Angeles, with no governmental aid, State or Federal, and with limited endowments to date, the Institute must look to voluntary contributions of the public, and to its membership dues, for the maintenance of these activities.

The opportunity to help the blind, where help is most needed, administered by an institution, efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the problems of the physically blind, is always available through the activities of the Braille Institute.



# Light

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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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## "FEEL" BEATS SIGHT IN THIS WAR JOB

BY JAMES H. COLLINS

WITH the help of Uncle Sam, California is making real progress in placing the blind in real jobs. Under the Barden-LaFollette act, passed last summer, the Federal government provides funds on a 50-50 basis, to pay the expenses of rehabilitation and placement, through state organizations.

For example: Here is Rev. Raymond Wilder, an ordained Congregational minister, totally blind since early childhood, who after nearly eight years in the pulpit, decided to go into war work, and was placed almost immediately by Anthony E. Septinelli, who has charge of placements in the southern part of the State, for the California Department of Education.

Mr. Wilder had never done mechanical work, except around home, but with a brief training period, proved capable of assembling ceramic coils for fighting planes, at the plant of Harry A. Ungar, Inc., 615 Ducommun Street, Los Angeles. This company ordinarily makes novelties, such as wood-burning sets and toys, and Mr. Ungar says that

Wilder and another visually handicapped employee, Sidney Share, are definitely included in his post-war plans.

Wilder is an ambitious blind man who, early in life, selected a vocation that he believed was within his abilities, and spent a dozen years preparing for it, educationally.

But finding employment in this vocation, the ministry, was another matter.

Then, unemployed and decidedly discouraged, he went to Septinelli, whose job is placing the blind, and right away there was a place for him, one that utilized abilities he didn't know he possessed. It provides a satisfactory income, and has a future.

Wilder was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, in 1904, lost his sight as a baby, was put into a Boston nursery for blind children at three, spent four years in the Perkins Institute kindergarten, and was ready for the California School for the Blind, at Berkeley, when his parents moved to California, in 1912.

He was a bright kid, and at seventeen was chosen as one of the first



blind youngsters to be sent to high school, under a new State arrangement. Then he went to the University of California, at Oakland, spent two years at junior college, two more at Pomona, three years in religious seminary training for the ministry—and then four years seeking a pulpit.



Sensitive fingers of the blind on precision war work.

It might as well be admitted, that church members are slow to employ a blind preacher. Here and there, a blind man has fought his way into the pulpit, against the apprehensions of those who decide upon a new parson, and has been decidedly successful. But the waiting and discouragement are heart-breaking, and the same persistence will now open up employment in the industrial world.

In 1935, Wilder found an opening at the small mission church in Glen Avon,

near Riverside, where his parents lived. This was a Congregational church, and he was hired, and ordained after preaching. There were only fifty-odd members, and the stipend was small—he had to have county aid to piece out a living.

Still, in eight years, he increased the membership to seventy-odd, and the Sunday school always had from sixty to a hundred pupils. His preaching and social work were definitely successful—but the box office was another matter, and last year he decided to seek some other employment.

Moving to Van Nuys, he applied for work at the Adel Precision Products Corporation, a busy factory making airplane accessories, which has been a pioneer in employing blind and visually handicapped people. Some change in the company's plans caused a delay in his application, so he ap-

plied to Mr. Septinelli, and within a week, was working for Harry Ungar.

Mr. Ungar is another Los Angeles employer who has taken a practical interest in blind workers, and Septinelli had spent some time in the Ungar plant, investigating the different types of work, and deciding which could be performed by blind people.

Wilder was assigned to learn a very difficult job.

Ceramic coils are electrical gadgets that go into planes. They start with a



brittle porcelain cylinder. Around this cylinder, wire is coiled, and then it is fitted with tiny legs, and more wires are passed inside it, and out of openings. The least over-tightening of a screw will crack the porcelain, and the slightest misfitting of a wire ruin the electrical properties of the coil.

Also, instead of being a meaningless part, it is a complete product—when you have finished a ceramic coil, you've got something!

It is precision work from start to finish, and to a plant superintendent who had had no experience with blind workers' abilities, would seem to be the last kind of task to be handed over to people who are guided only by touch.

But Mr. Ungar says his two blind workers, Wilder and Share, have demonstrated that "feel" is better than sight on these coil assemblies. A worker with full vision, but lacking the delicate touch, could ruin many coils. Ability in such a job is measured by work that passes the severe tests imposed by Government inspectors.

Sidney Share has also developed ability in operating a coil-winding machine, which he mastered without any changes. He has very limited vision, so little, that he works practically by touch alone. Both Wilder and Share

have developed ability at other tasks, such as assembling metal and plastic parts that go into the company's war products. The complete coil assembly requires two to three dozen different parts, which have to be wound, wired, screwed and adjusted with precision and delicacy.

While Wilder had never done manual work, he possessed the blind person's investigating fingers. Where the sighted boy or girl is interested in things like the year and model of automobiles, the blind youngster busies himself with the "feel" of things, exploring tools, appliances and gadgets to see how they are put together, and work their wonders to perform. To employers, and factory supervisors, who really get acquainted with the blind by hiring and training them, this faculty generally proves surprising—it is something they may never have utilized in getting work done, and when understood, can be definitely an advantage.

Another advantage in employing visually handicapped people, says Mr. Ungar, is that they appreciate the chance to work, and are at the top of the factory force in attendance. That is not only good in itself, but has a good effect on other employees, keeping up the general attendance record of the plant.





# IN MEMORIAM

ANN COMAR

Irvin S. Cobb wanted no sermon preached at his obsequies. He needed none. His life was a sermon—a sermon on how to make living a rich and wonderful experience.

Countless humans have lived longer. When death claimed the great American humorist on last March 10 at his New York hotel apartment, he was only sixty-seven. He had been seriously ill for three months. But the years that came before brimmed and glistened with the molten gold of hearty, tangy living. His life was one to envy. Not because Cobb was an eminent author, gifted with brilliant wit and mellow humor. Not because he was one of the greatest newspapermen of his times and as such, a participant in thrilling adventure on both sides of the Atlantic. Not because motion pictures and radio opened wide their oft-closed doors and added to his success and fame. But because Irvin Shrewsbury Cobb put his whole heart into every day's brief bit of his allotted years. He was an outstanding example of the truth of the philosophy that you get out of life only what you put into it.

Cobb's zest for life was amazing—an ever-flowing spring from which bubbled up his sparkling wit. It was reflected in the tremendous capacity for work which produced so many books, plays, short stories, musical comedies and articles that he lost track of the number.

It takes a man with a big and understanding heart to live like that and Cobb's was in keeping with his bulky build. He found interest in everything, people especially. Aside from his wit, perhaps his best-remembered trait is his kindliness. That quality found expression in innumerable forms. One was his friendship for the blind. For several years before his death, Cobb took a keen interest in the work of the Braille Institute of America and was a valued member of its Advisory Board.

The famed Kentuckian's life, his writings and the tributes paid him at the time of his death reveal him as the highest type of American—kindly, generous, democratic, scornful of pretense; laughter-loving, but deeply earnest, nevertheless.

Here in Los Angeles, Cobb's younger brother, Johnny Cobb, said of him, "Irvin was always a little boy at heart. He was always the first kid up in the morning when the circus came to town."

The younger brother told reporters, "Irvin always tried to inject something humorous in his stories but he never got a laugh at the expense of anyone's feelings. Never did he write a line reflecting on a woman, on one's misfortunes or infirmities, nor on race or religion."

Cobb's close personal friend, author-newspaperman Gene Fowler, speaking of the day he first met Cobb, said, "The

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: The passing of this great American humorist, novelist and actor means, in part, an irreparable loss to the Braille Institute of America, Inc. For several years, Mr. Cobb was a member of its Advisory Board and directly influential in bettering the social and financial situation of the Institute. On one occasion, when he appeared on a local radio program, sponsored by the Braille Institute, a response came from his radio audience, expressing thanks to Mr. Cobb for his wonderful talk. With the letter was enclosed a contribution of \$25.00. Later, it developed that this husband and wife left a bequest of \$25,000 to the Braille Institute of America. Incidentally, the Institute never received the bequest. But this was not Mr. Cobb's fault. The will was successfully contested, with the result that few of its original legatees benefitted.)



thing that impressed me most was not his fame as a newspaperman, or his established eminence as a writer of short stories, but the fact that he at once treated me as an equal . . . The press was his altar and its people were its priests."

The great author, journalist and after-dinner speaker was born in Paducah, Kentucky, on June 20, 1876, and married Laura Spencer Baker of Savannah, Georgia, on June 20, 1900. His survivors include his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Cobb Rogers of New York.

Cobb's original ambition was to be an artist and it was as a cartoonist on the Paducah Daily News at sixteen that his colorful newspaper career began. He became a reporter on that newspaper; at nineteen, its city editor, and, with the merger of the two Paducah newspapers, managing editor of that city's News-Democrat.

After three years, Cobb transferred his avid pursuit of the news to New York. He worked on the New York Sun and the New York Evening World, then for the Saturday Evening Post as a foreign correspondent during the first World War. He broke into fiction in 1913 with publication of his favorite short story, "The Escape of Mr. Trimm". That was the start of his amazingly prolific literary career. His was no studied

literary technique, but the easy-flowing brilliance of the born story-teller, who could string a yarn out to a final potent punch-line or throw out a quick, convulsing quip with the sharp suddenness of a whip-crack.

Many witticisms familiar to all Americans are attributed to Cobb. His was



Managing Director of the Braille Institute reading from the Braille edition of "Escape of Mr. Trimm" to Irvin S. Cobb, its author. Photograph taken in patio of Cobb's home at Santa Monica in August, 1936.

the oft-heard simile, "As much privacy as a goldfish". He also is credited with the famous quip occasioned by the reported illness of the "New York World's" feared city editor, the late Charles Chapin. A young reporter on the "World" at that time, Cobb cried, "Let's hope that it's nothing trivial."

Cobb's friend, Will Rogers, was the target for another of his famous re-



marks. It was at a Friars' Club meeting. Will Hays complimented Rogers on having something under his hat besides hair. Quipped Cobb, "It's high time somebody in this country spoke a kind word for dandruff."

In the heart of the "Sage of Paducah", there was no love for a meat croquette, according to Harry Rosenthal. "What is it anyway," queried Cobb, "but hash come to a head?"

The great humorist authored the book for a musical show produced at New York's Casino Theater. A telegram to Cobb from Marc Klaw, the theater's manager, on the opening night, said, "We are both from Paducah. I am glad you have been discovered." After reading newspaper reviews of his show the next morning, Cobb replied, "It is true we are both from Paducah, but I have not been discovered. I have been exposed!"

Cobb was always laughing at himself, at his almost grotesque ugliness of feature, at the operations that marred his life. In a letter to Gene Fowler, a short time before his death, he declared, "If I get anything else on top of what already I've got, I aim to put on a No. 2 company. As nearly as I can figure, though, there's nothing left for me to get except perhaps beriberi and some of the less common diseases of the horse."

Kindly and witty to the end, Cobb even found a way to take some of the sting out of his death. A letter written to a friend last December disclosed that he knew death was close. But he didn't fear it. He chose to treat the whole subject facetiously. When Paducah friends opened a sealed letter he had

sent them last December, they found instructions to have his body wrapped in a plain cloth or sheet and cremated and the ashes sent to Paducah for burial at the roots of a dogwood tree to be planted there.

"Should the tree live," wrote Cobb, "that will be monument enough for me."

Cobb asked that the Twenty-third Psalm be read because it was his mother's favorite Scriptural passage. "And is mine," he said in his letter, "since it contains no charnel words, no morbid mouthings about corruption and decay and, being mercifully without creed or dogma, carries no threat of eternal hell fire for those parties we do not like, no direct promise of a heaven which, if we may judge by the people who are surest of going there, must be a powerfully dull place. Hell may have a worse climate but undoubtedly the company is sprightlier."

Cobb expressed willingness that fellow members of the Paducah Elks' lodge attend the rites if they wished.

"Judging by my latest visits to the basement of the Elks' Club, it wouldn't do them a bit of harm if some of the habitues there got out in the open air if only for a trip to the cemetery," he opined. He wanted no long faces and no show of grief.

Irvin S. Cobb is gone. But through the fruits of his prodigious literary labors, he is still harvesting the laughter that he loved—chuckles, guffaws and great belly laughs. And so he's still giving added gusto to the lives of the millions who have refreshed themselves with his droll humor and scintillating wit.



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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*Bourne Workshop for the Blind, New York City.*—There are 145 blind workers here manufacturing brooms and mops and stitching pillow cases for our Army and Navy. A few blind women produce 57 different types of woven articles. The following is a statement of the statistics for 1943, showing the excellent results of production at the Bourne Workshop: Government brooms, 162,640; private brooms, 141,421; Government mops, 395,785; private mops, 404,090 and Government Pillow Cases, 655,231. This represents 242 working days for which wages were paid to the blind workers amounting to \$103,-061.57.

\* \* \*

*New York Association for the Blind, New York City.*—The record of seven blind men folding boxes for a popular commercial face powder is unusual. Working only part time, these seven workers in the Occupational Department completed in two and one-half days, 7,000 boxes. The job consists of twelve folds to a box and some of the workers average 90 boxes an hour, or one and one-half per minute. An interesting comparison of speed and skill is shown by the statement that a sighted girl at the plant averages 60 boxes an hour.

\* \* \*

*Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, Watertown, Mass.*—Perkins' contribution to the war is not confined to raising money. The School ophthalmologist is with the Army in North Africa, the physician on the seas with the Navy and the Upper

School dentist is with the Air Corps. One former secretary is in England for the Red Cross and another is a Wave in this country. Three men teachers are on leave for important war work while several members of the maintenance staff are in the armed forces. And at home there is also intensive activity which includes services given to Red Cross Canteen and as nurses' aides at a Boston Hospital. Many staff members are blood donors, and several spend many hours at work on surgical dressings and packing garments for war relief, knitting and almost full time service to the Red Cross.

\* \* \*

*Workshop for the Blind, Sacramento, California.*—This organization, opening formally sometime this month, will be under the full-time direction of Bernece McCrary, field worker who has been covering Sacramento Valley under supervision of Oakland Home for the Adult Blind. It is the first time such a full-time center has been established here. Deputy Director of State Institutions Carl E. Applegate stated recently that the shop is part of a concentration program to eliminate traveling by field workers. He announced further that the small classes in Grass Valley, Marysville and other valley towns would be discontinued as the Workshop will be so centrally located as to no longer necessitate the blind workers holding these classes. The shop will be open to any adult blind and will be open to the public at all times. A miniature store will be set up where handicrafts will be sold.



*Industrial Home for the Blind*, Brooklyn, N. Y.—A motion picture was brought to the blind through the medium of a "seeing eye" commentator in an experiment arranged by the Industrial Home for the Blind not long ago at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The picture selected for the experiment was Warner's "The Desert Song".

The "seeing eye" commentator was Tom Slater, nominated by the blind themselves. An innovation was a Braille description of the film, which was read by the blind audience before the picture was shown.

\* \* \*

*Washington State School for the Blind*, Vancouver, Wash.—War Bond posters, designed by blind children, students of this school, have won many awards in the Victory Contest of the Latham Foundation, Stanford University, California, with their bright-colored posters. Relying on their highly developed sense of touch, and the guidance of their art director, Miss Floyl Cook, these unseeing children have learned to create pictorial beauty by two special methods. Younger children are given little cardboard cut-outs of the basic geometric forms. Once familiar with their triangles, circles and squares, the children use them to cut similar forms from colored papers. The colored papers are then built up into designs. The advanced method involves use of stencils. The older children cut them out and color through them. Results from both methods are good. To those who know of the handicap which had to be overcome, they are inspiring.

\* \* \*

*Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind*, Philadelphia, Pa.—Much activity is occurring here this spring. Overbrook won its first vic-

tory at wrestling over Valley Forge Military Academy. Irvine Auditorium, in Philadelphia, was the scene of the Cultural Olympic Speech on February fifth. Contestants who took part in the finals were: Theodore Messenger, Marjorie Hackett and Robert Barroll. Competition is high in the sale of War bonds and Stamps among the Cottages at Overbrook, and Achievement Tests, under the supervision of Miss Edith Newlin, Psychometrist, have been given to all grades from the fourth through the high school.

\* \* \*

*Institution for the Chinese Blind, Inc.*, New York City.—During the year of 1943 this Institution added eighteen schools in China for the blind, to the six already supported through the efforts of the organization. At the beginning of 1943, they were just starting to aid the 30,000 and more young Chinese soldiers blinded in the war; now they have established eight encampments where they are actually assisting about half of this number. During the past year, the organization has established six clinics for the treatment of eye diseases in Free China, one of which, in Chungking, is treating two thousand cases a week and all are spreading information on the prevention of blindness, according to Dr. E. H. Hume, Vice-president of the Institution.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's for Blinded Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London, England.—On January 27th, the Disabled Persons (Employment) Bill passed the Committee Stage in the House of Commons and the British Legion secured a great victory. An amendment in the name of Mr. Bevin, Minister of Labour, to secure a preference in training and employment of ex-Service men and women

(Continued on Page 13)



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# JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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By HELEN McWILLIAMS

The present man power problem would be in an even more critical situation were it not for the ready and eager response of our blind patriots. Too much can not be said concerning the varied activities of these sightless men, women, boys and girls. There is no age limit. Accounts come to our ears of the efficient and splendid work of the elderly blind and the equally excellent work done by sure young fingers of boys and girls who, but for lack of physical vision, might now be serving with their brothers and sisters in the armed forces. This ever growing sightless army of the home front is serving as surely and as fully as those in the actual scenes of battle.

Among these praiseworthy volunteers, Maxie Prator, blind employee of Vega Aircraft Corporation at Bakersfield, California, has established a record in assembling 146 small parts in two hours in the bomb rack department. He works eight hours a day six days a week and has earned the appellation of "Swing Shift Maxie". Although he is 54 years old, half of that time has been spent in blindness, for when he was 27 years of age, he injured his eyes in an accident while he was employed as an oil field driller. He has not only achieved independence for himself but supports his 76 year old mother and, in addition, three orphaned children. He purchases a \$50.00 bond each five weeks, feeling he cannot do enough for the country that has offered him an opportunity to achieve inde-

pendence. Mr. Prator has long been active in work for the blind and at present is vice-president of Kern County Society for the Adult Blind.

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And in Racine, Wisconsin, another courageous blind man who lost his sight more recently has rehabilitated himself to an exceptional degree in little more than two years. Reuben Phelps, blind only since 1941, is happily doing his part in the war effort at the J. I. Case Tractor plant. He, too, works as an assembler, and his employers feel that, even with so little experience in the world of blindness, he is doing outstanding work. At a nearby plant, his wife is also engaged in war work, making shoes for the Army. They have solved their problem to their own satisfaction.

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And from London, England, comes the report of Air Commodore Patrick Huskinson, blinded by the explosion of a German bomb during a London raid in April, 1941, now developing the R.A.F.'s new six-ton "factory buster" bomb. He had been, of necessity, retired from the post of Director of Armament Development at the Ministry of Air Craft Production at the time of his injury, but has continued to work on the new bomb despite the loss of his sight.

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A graduate of St. Dunstan's, London, England, totally blinded in World War I, has again joined the South



African Army. He is probably the only blind soldier on active service in the world. Staff Sergeant James Crawford, a skilled physiotherapist, is today a member of the South African Medical Corps, and is on the staff of a military hospital in the Cape Peninsula.

Sergeant Crawford lost his sight in 1916, when he was seriously injured while fighting with the South African Scottish at LaBassée.

Such determination is bound to win for all the blind engaged in war activities, an enviable place in history.

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And seven young men, all students at the University of Southern California are now busily preparing for their appearance in the business and professional worlds. Bill Burnhard is majoring in mathematics, Wilbur Radcliffe in Greek and business administration. George Benning, an old timer of eight semesters, has facilitated his courses by perfecting himself in the use of a Braille shorthand machine which he intends to carry with him into the field of industry. Barton Cooper, Charles Merrill, Edwin Motter and Ralph Wooden are making strides in the field of philosophy, languages and business administration. A few more years, and the world will see seven young people carving out for themselves careers of note, according to their admiring schoolmates and friends.

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And we would cite the record Louise Raymond of Buffalo, New York, is making. Young Miss Raymond, after surveying the situation of the need for home workers, exercised her initiative and secured herself a position with the R. C. Neal Company, Inc., of that city. We quote excerpts from an appreciative letter, written by her employer:

"Miss Raymond has proved very, very satisfactory in every way. Her letters are very well written, and the quality of workmanship compares favorably with our sighted typists on the same kind of work. She has fitted perfectly in our organization to the point that most of us forget she does not have her sight. . . .

"We would be glad to have you use this letter if you need to convince anyone that sightless employees are capable of doing 100% quality work. . . . I might further add, I believe that anyone who finds an opportunity to place a blind worker, will receive more benefits themselves than they will give, or think they are giving."

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A. F. Radley of Burlingame, California, blind for six years, is now engaged in making leather bags and purses for women. Mr. Radley, who served with the marines in the army of occupation in Germany for 10 months after World War I, hopes to be able to assist in the rehabilitation of soldiers of this war who have incurred total or partial blindness while at the battlefronts. Speaking from experience, he said, "A helping hand is worth more than anything. I know how much my assistance meant to me, but those boys will need much more than training. They'll need someone to bolster their morale, and I mean to help, if I can."

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From the Regina Corporation in Rahway, New Jersey, comes the following report of William White, a former newspaper reporter, now employed as an inspector, using plug, feeler and flush pin gauges. His employer writes, in part: "Because of his exceptional sense of touch, the quality of his work is above average, over that of his sighted fellow workers. . . . We have



not experienced adverse safety problems because of his employment. It is our opinion that his employment has had a good effect upon the morale of his fellow workers."

### EXEMPTION

(March 14, 1944—11:55 P.M.)

Morgenthau told me  
That he would let me  
Hold out a dollar  
If I don't holler.  
Now, I ain't squawkin'  
Nor even talkin'  
So I can hold out  
One paper dollar.

—Poet Laureate.

NOTE: The above words meter perfectly with music set to "A Rubber Dolly" song which was popular forty years ago.

### INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD

(Continued from Page 10)

of all wars was agreed to. The policy of preference for jobs for ex-Service men and women has been consistently advocated since the formation of the Legion, and has been intensified in recent months. During the Debate, Conservative and Liberal speakers supported the preference for ex-Service men; Labour speakers opposed. Sir Ian Fraser argued for the guarantee of priority for the ex-Service man and the war-disabled. Other amendments which Sir Fraser had put down sought to have the Register marked so that ex-Service men could be picked out for preferential employment and also to guarantee that factories for the disabled, like the Poppy Factory, might be reserved for ex-Service men and women. These suggestions were accepted by Mr. Bevin, the Minister of Labour.

### ANNOUNCEMENT TO HOME TEACHERS

Recently reprints have been made of the following titles in Grade One:

#### QUEST OF THE YELLOW PEARL

By MacFarland . . . . \$1.50

#### WHY THE CHIMES RANG

By Alden . . . . 1.00

#### BAG OF SMILES

By Alden . . . . 1.00

#### KNIGHTS OF THE SILVER SHIELD

By Alden . . . . 1.00

#### THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME

By Connell . . . . .75

Home teachers have found these small books in simple Braille helpful to beginners. Although some of them may appear to be juvenile stories, each has a moral or object lesson which adults may read with inspiration and benefit.

N.B. The above named prices include postage.

### NEW TITLES IN MOON TYPE

#### THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD,

by Henry Drummond. I Volume — Handsomely bound in durable black fabrikoid covers, title stamped in gold, 11" x 11", 72 pages. Price . . . . \$5.00

#### COMMANDMENTS AND SERMON AND OTHER HELPFUL SCRIPTURES. I

Volume — Handsomely bound in durable black fabrikoid covers, title stamped in gold, 11" x 11", 72 pages. Price . . . . \$5.00

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# L I G H T

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Volume XVI      April, 1944      Number 3

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor

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*Established 1931*

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To keep the public informed of the needs and resourcefulness of the physically blind, and how to help them constructively in their valiant struggle to endure blindness and to overcome its handicap to the extent of self-support, thereby proving "a man's a man for a' that".

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## EDITORIALS

### *Not Handicapped*

"Oh! he's not handicapped, he's only blind."

These words were spoken by N. C. Hanks, international lecturer, philosopher and economist, to his manager, who informed him that a blind man in his audience had just consulted his watch for the time.

Hanks, a native of Utah, residing at Provo, lost both eyes and both hands in a mine explosion when still in his teens. Despite this terrific handicap, he finished high school, graduated at Stanford University and has since supported himself on the lecture platform.

Under these circumstances, we agree with Hanks. Physical blindness can never be much of a handicap to any person who has both hands.

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### *Number of War Blinded*

On March 3, an Associated Press dispatch, released by Secretary of War Henry Stimson gave the total number of veterans blinded in this present war as 73, 70 in the Army and 3 in the Navy and Marines. While this number is too many, fortunately, it is nowhere near the number which many have ex-

pected and which has been mistakenly published from time to time.

Unfortunately, we cannot hope that there will be no more veterans blinded during the duration but it will be comforting to all God-loving, patriotic people that authorities qualified to express a prediction feel quite certain that the number of our selected servicemen and women blinded in this war will not exceed the number in World War I.

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### *A Sound Policy*

To counteract conflicting rumors as to what is and is not the policy of the Veterans' Administration to furnishing so-called guide dogs for the blinded veterans, we wrote to Brigadier General Frank T. Hines, Administrator of the Veterans' Administration, for a commitment of policy that might be published when and where it would prove helpful, not only to the blinded veterans and to the public, but to the Veterans' Administration, as well.

Under the Walsh-Clark-Rankin bill, passed by Congress, the Veterans' Administration is charged with the responsibility of rehabilitation and care for the blinded veterans and all disabled veterans of this war.

General Hines very kindly responded, as follows:

"The Veterans' Administration is in favor of a guide dog for the blind veteran when it is shown that the guide dog is the best solution to the veteran's problem. The blind veteran should not acquire a guide dog until such time as he has completed his social adjustment training to the point where he has become just as independent and self-reliant as possible; also, that it is clearly shown that the veteran's personal characteristics of disposition, habits and abilities are favorable to his



utilizing satisfactorily the services of a dog. It also seems important that the veteran's employment objective shall have been determined and it is known that a guide dog will be practical and compatible with the veteran's future employment.

"When, after the above conditions have been met, the blind veteran decides that he desires a dog, it will be the practice of this Administration to apprise the veteran of organizations from which he may secure such a dog. In those cases where, in the opinion of this Administration, a guide dog is essential in the veteran's vocational training and employment, arrangements will be made by the Administration with a guide dog organization which, in our judgment, is well suited as to location, quality of training offered, and other considerations to meet the requirements of the particular veteran for a guide dog.

"It is requested that should you have occasion to quote the above statement that it be quoted in its entirety."

To all experienced workers and executives engaged in welfare work for both the civilian and war blind, this statement by General Hines will be very heartening. To them the Administration's policy is sound, practical and consistently conservative. It is gratifying to those experienced in welfare work for the blind that the Veterans' Administration is approaching this problem with so much good, common sense and we here express thanks to General Hines for giving us this statement for publication, feeling sure that it will help in clarifying the confusion in public thought and thereby assist all who read this to cooperate constructively.

### A TIMELY WARNING

Henry A. Colgate, president and chairman of the board of trustees of The Seeing Eye, Inc., Morristown, New Jersey, has issued a timely warning to California, released from the *Sacramento Union*, Sacramento, California. Mr. Colgate's statement follows, in full:

"In line with the resolution passed by its board of trustees immediately after Pearl Harbor, The Seeing Eye provides dog guides to servicemen who can use them, or who want them, without cost to the men or to the federal government, and is giving them priority over all other applicants. This need is being met from the general funds of the organization."

Contrary to popular belief, he added, remarkably few servicemen to date have been blinded in action. He added that if casualties of this type continue at their present low rate, the demand from our armed forces will not be greater than The Seeing Eye can fill in its regular schedule.

He explained that only those dogs trained at The Seeing Eye, Morristown, New Jersey school are Seeing Eye dogs. The name is copyrighted and the school has no branches.

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### SYMPATHETIC COUNSEL

Occasionally some U. S. serviceman, coming out of battle or out of anesthesia, realizes that he is blind, that ahead of him stretches a lifetime of darkness. To the parents of one such blinded soldier Brigadier General Paul R. Hawley, chief U. S. Army surgeon for the European Theater, recently wrote a letter (published in the *New York Herald Tribune*) of classic directness.

General Hawley's sympathetic, yet truly practicable instruction to the parents of their war-blinded son is



equally applicable to the families and friends of newly blinded civilians. Because the letter outlines clearly both the policy and purpose of the Braille Institute, it is reprinted here in full, despite the fact that it has received liberal coverage in daily papers and current periodicals. It follows:

"Your son has had his eyes seriously damaged in the war. . . . He has been confronted with the fear of blindness which he has faced with the same manly courage he had when wounded. . . . Everything possible has been done to save his sight, without success.

"The fear of blindness is a very real and ugly thing. Fear can only be overcome by understanding the thing that causes it. The fear of blindness is the fear of utter darkness, a physical darkness that leads to a darkness of the mind. It is also the fear . . . of helplessness . . . of loss of earning capacity. It is also a fear of loneliness, of sentimental pity, of being placed by one's friends in a world apart.

"We recognize and understand these fears and overcome them. That is done by training your son to learn to be blind. . . . The Government sees to it that he will get the best training available to teach him to read, to type, to walk around . . . and, particularly, to become experienced in one or more of the many ways a blind person can earn a living.

"This training . . . can be best done in a sort of school or college where others . . . are learning to be blind. . . . Haphazard and casual training in the home often does more harm than good. . . .

"The most important thing you can do when he returns is to treat him as naturally as you can. He does not want pity and sentimentality. He wants to

do things for himself and the sooner he does these the more nearly normal you will all be. . . . Greet him as if nothing had happened. . . .

"I wish for you and for your son all success in your common task of overcoming his injury; and overcome it you can if you refuse to be defeated. He was not afraid when he gave his eyes for his country. You must never let him be afraid while he is getting his vision back through other faculties."

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### *Income Exemption for the Blind*

Section 115 of Public Law 235 provides that a blind person may take a personal deduction of \$500.00 in recognition of the fact that he has certain expenses growing out of blindness which seeing taxpayers do not have to meet. This exemption applies to taxes on income earned in 1944 and thereafter.

It is reported that those qualified under the law can claim this exemption in filing their estimated incomes for this year. Sometime later, applicants claiming these exemptions doubtless will be required to show proof, perhaps by medical examination, of their eligibility. If this examination shows any claimant to be disqualified, adjustment may be made at the end of the tax year, March 15th, 1945.

Under the law, the definition of blindness reads: "An individual whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees."



## Not Overlooked

Here's something for the records! It can no longer be said truly that with Uncle Sam, there is a *forgotten man*.

Under a Federal appropriation, administered by the Librarian of Congress, there is now being expended \$100,000 a year for literature in Braille and Moon types for the adult blind of the Nation.

This literature is furnished to 26 regional libraries located at strategic points who, in turn, lend it to blind readers, Uncle Sam paying the postage.

The literature is printed for the Government under competitive bidding by various Braille printing presses. Franking labels are furnished for the mailing of this literature from the presses to the libraries. Someone, somewhere, must be held responsible for the proper use of these labels. Misuse of them is subject to a fine of \$300.00. The practice is to appoint an executive in each of the Braille printing presses as cus-

todian of the franking labels. For this service, Uncle Sam pays a salary of \$1.00 a year.

The Managing Director of the Braille Institute is the person selected by the Administrator who is charged with this responsibility. He was reminded by Washington of this salary with the instructions that it should be included in his income tax report. After the 20% withholding tax was deducted from this salary and other levies taken, he is having his auditor figure out his net income from the salary.

Yes, no one is overlooked. There is no longer a *forgotten man*.

## An Urgent Need

Do you have a standard model typewriter, any make, at home or in business, which you seldom use? If so, we will pay you the market price for it. The Braille Institute is urgently in need of two such typewriters.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

Business firms are urged to use this section of *Light*. Rates furnished on request. All revenue derived used to better the conditions of the blind.

*Light* circulates to thousands of potential commodity buyers and philanthropists in southern California and the nation.

### WE NEED . . .

#### MAINTENANCE MECHANIC & MACHINIST

90c an hour. Easy and interesting work. Permanent job to right man.

#### ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER, TYPIST

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741 NORTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES 27, CALIFORNIA.

Telephone—OLympia 1121.



## Grateful Acknowledgment

Immediately following our Annual Membership meeting (the twenty-fourth in our existence), a comprehensive, although necessarily limited news coverage was sent to the daily press.

Though some weeks have elapsed, this is the first opportunity to express publicly to the press our grateful appreciation for their very generous, constructive cooperation. To apprise our readers, members and contributors, far and near, who may not have had access to these metropolitan papers, we are reproducing here photographic copies from a few of them, regretting that limited space prevents us from including all papers which gave such generous coverage to the release.

## Aid to Blind by Institute Made Public

Reports on welfare service rendered to the blind during the past year and re-election of officers and trustees was the principal business at the 24th annual meeting of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., at the institute's headquarters at 741 N. Vermont Ave., it was announced yesterday.

Disbursements during the fiscal year ending last Sept. 30 in behalf of the social and economic welfare of the blind in the State and nation aggregated \$65,788, according to the report, and covered the following activities: Social welfare, \$8395; home teaching, \$3178; business guidance, \$1731; free lending library, \$14,900; literature published and distributed, \$37,583.

## Blind Man's Eye Restored

Sight restored to one eye, through an operation financed by the Braille Institute of America, Inc., a once-blind man who was receiving state aid, has been enabled to return to his work as an arc welder, thereby saving the taxpayers \$50 a month for his life expectancy of 20 years.

This was a highlight of one of the annual reports presented at the annual meeting this week of the institute, when members heard of the work being done for the blind.

During the year, 64 major and 235 minor cases were added to the list served by the Bureau of Social Welfare, hundreds of Braille Bibles were distributed, 729 borrowers received Braille or talking books, 74 students were taught Braille, and much other work was done.

## Braille Institute Elects Officers

Robert A. Odell was re-elected president of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., at the twenty-fourth annual meeting, it was announced today by J. Robert Atkinson, vice president and managing director of the organization.

Others re-elected as officers and trustees were Atkinson, vice president; John W. Tapley, secretary; Arthur L. Sonderegger, treasurer; Herman O. Meyer, assistant treasurer, and Dr. Lowell C. Frost, Arthur C. Pesterre and Cecil L. Whitehead, trustees.

The institute expended \$65,788.51 throughout the nation in behalf of the social and economic welfare of the blind with one of its major activities being the free distribution of the King James version of the Bible, or at prices they are able to pay below the non-profit production cost.

## Literature was biggest item on Braille budget

Biggest single item on the Braille Institute of America budget for the last year was the purchase of literature for the blind, it was announced yesterday.

Reports delivered at the institute's 24th annual meeting at 741 North Vermont ave. showed \$14,900.59 was allocated to the support of a free lending library and \$37,583.07 for the publication and distribution of literature.

Radios and talking book machines were also supplied without charge to those unable to pay.

Other itemized accounts reported on were: Social welfare (which includes hospitalization for the needy), \$8395.50; home teaching of Braille, \$3178.09, and business guidance, \$1731.26.

Contributions and bequests from the estates of Dora M. Biethan, Charles J. Chisam and Mrs. I. B. Stetson were acknowledged at the meeting.

## 'Pacific Coast Lighthouse' In Braille Work

By Kimmis Hendrick

Staff Correspondent of  
The Christian Science Monitor

LOS ANGELES—"A powerful lighthouse on the Pacific Coast for all who are navigating the dark waters of physical blindness" was the phrase used at the Braille Institute of America's annual meeting here with reference to its contemplated building program. J. Robert Atkinson, Managing Director of the Institute, said he felt sure that when the time comes for going ahead with present construction plans, ample funds will be available to provide space for the Institute's many welfare activities.

Incorporated to make available to those who cannot see print all of the literature now obtainable in Braille or Moon Type, the Institute has now held 24 annual meetings. During the year just closed, its report shows, \$65,788.51 has been spent by it "in behalf of the social and economic welfare of the blind of the state and nation."

The Government stands ready and willing to care for blinded veterans of the present war, Mr. Atkinson told the meeting in response to questions about his new duties as President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind. The Association's Committee for the War Blind on which he has been serving, he said, has taken an active interest in legislation now passed by Congress which provides for the rehabilitation and care of servicemen whose physical vision has been blinded.



## OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

After nearly four years of patient waiting, we are glad to announce that Mrs. Edith Wakeman Hughes has kindly consented to take the chairmanship of our Advisory Board. Not that Mrs. Hughes was unwilling to accept the post, for she has been vitally and actively interested in our welfare work for several years. Sincerely conscientious, Mrs. Hughes has felt that until quite recently, other interests and responsibilities prevented her from doing justice to the chairmanship position.

The appointment was unanimously made by the Trustees at their regular monthly meeting on March 28, 1944. We feel quite highly honored that Mrs. Hughes, whose resourcefulness and philanthropy in the social, civic and economic life of the Nation are widely felt, has found it possible to help us in this way.

It will be remembered that Mrs. Hughes is the originator of the Piggy Bank movement, under the banner, "A penny a day drives darkness away," as a means of raising funds for our welfare work.

At the time she originated the plan, she was in Hollywood only temporarily. She was not yet acquainted with the Braille Institute and its welfare activities. However, her interest in the blind was sympathetic and sincere, having been, some years before, very interested in the work of the Lighthouse for the Blind in New York City.

And, at the Christmas season of 1939, she was inspired to make her Christmas a "Braille Christmas." This was to be accomplished by purchasing, at her own expense, the little Mexican pottery pig, the prototype of the little Piggy Banks with which you are all so familiar today. Around the neck of the little porker she planned to attach a

card with the now famous slogan, "A penny a day drives darkness away." One of these she intended to send to each of her friends as her Christmas greeting.

Mrs. Hughes then called upon us with her request for our permission to carry out her generous plan. Our approval was gladly given, for in our judgment, it seemed sound and attractive in every way.

This original idea made an instant appeal to her many friends and its success served as an impetus to further and more widely spread efforts. Evidence of the resourcefulness of the plan is seen in the fact that since its inception in December, 1939, to April 1, 1944, \$4,870.95 has been received into the treasury of the Braille Institute from 696 Pig bankers, or an average of \$7.00 per bank.

Mrs. Hughes has pledged to herself the placement of one Piggy Bank a day through 1944 among her friends. Her interest in the blind is, in part, sympathetic because of her own eye handicap which, she says, has really brought to her many blessings. She declares, "Everyone is patient with the blind and, therefore, tolerance is cultivated by the seeing and accepted by the unseeing."

Mrs. Hughes further says that in all of her social and benevolent activities, she has never met better cooperation than she has been given by the administrative staff of the Braille Institute.

Light readers and members may expect to hear more from time to time, of Mrs. Hughes' activities in behalf of the Institute, not only as chairman of its Advisory Board, but also as originator and director of the Mexican pottery bank plan.



# **OPPORTUNITY. . .**

Readers of *Light* are cordially invited to investigate the worthiness of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as beneficiary in their wills, insurance policies or war bonds.

Under its charter as a non-profit, non-sectarian California corporation, the Braille Institute is empowered to receive and accept for the purposes of the corporation, gifts, donations, bequests, and devices of money and property, *and to perform any conditions which may be stipulated by the donors.*

It may be said that the "purposes of the corporation" are broad enough in scope to meet the social and economic needs of persons blinded in adulthood in every walk of life. For this reason and because the administrative staff of the Braille Institute is efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the needs of the blind and to determine where and how blind welfare service can best be applied for the amelioration of physical blindness, the Trustees prefer that bequests should not be limited or restricted for specific purposes. However, donors may feel assured that if their bequests are particularly designated, the instruction of the donors will be observed to the letter.



## FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

## FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

## CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of..... (or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will dated.....  
testatrix her

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....



*"A Penny a Day Drives Darkness Away"*



BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 27, California

*I* WISH TO PARTICIPATE  
in your blind welfare service by uniting with Mrs. Edith Wake-  
man Hughes under the banner, "a penny a day drives darkness  
away." If you will send me one of the pig banks, I shall fill it  
and return it to you, or its equivalent in cash.

Name .....

Address .....

• • • WATCH FOR "*Aurora*" • • •



# Light

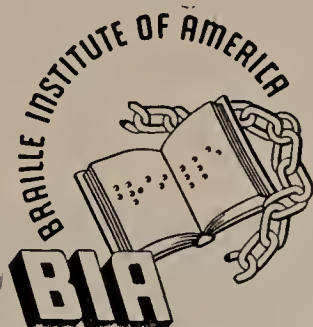
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*"The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms."*

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## FROM NIGHT CLUBS TO WARPLANE WINGS

BY JAMES H. COLLINS

**W**HEN the first blind worker goes into a busy war plant, employees marvel in a regular sequence:

1. They marvel that the blind fellow can get around, go to lunch, quit when the whistle blows.

2. If he has a dog, the animal is often more marvelous than himself.

3. They marvel that he can do any work for which the company will pay money.

4. He may do precision work that seems impossible without sight—which is absolutely unbelievable until they see it.

5. Marvel turns to emulation when they discover that he does more or better work than some sighted employees.

6. Last marvel of all, a triumph for the working blind—they forget that he cannot see with his eyes, and no longer think about him.

This sequence began at the Weber Showcase & Fixture Company when word was brought to J. L. Kaufhold, personnel director, of blind men work-

ing at the Timm Aircraft Corporation.

Mr. Kaufhold was interested in the skilled operations they performed, and decided that Weber had tasks upon which blind men could be tried. He consulted Anthony E. Septinelli, in charge of Southern California placements for the California Department of Education.

"Tony" Septinelli followed the usual procedure of working in the Weber factory himself, to see what tasks were within the abilities of carefully selected blind workers. Septinelli is totally blind. Whereupon, Weber took on several blind workers, and they have proved thoroughly satisfactory, and are there to stay.

One of these blind men, Paul La Valle, aroused special interest while sighted workers were getting used to the idea. All he lacked, in the way of marvels, was the dog—for he gets around everywhere with nothing but a white cane, and travels over the United States as confidently as through the showcase factory, now busy with aircraft and other war products.



La Valle is a professional entertainer in normal times, and teaches piano to sighted students at his home in Inglewood, besides working on the Weber swing shift.

He was born twenty-nine years ago, in Quebec, grew up in Maine, and lost his sight through snow blindness when

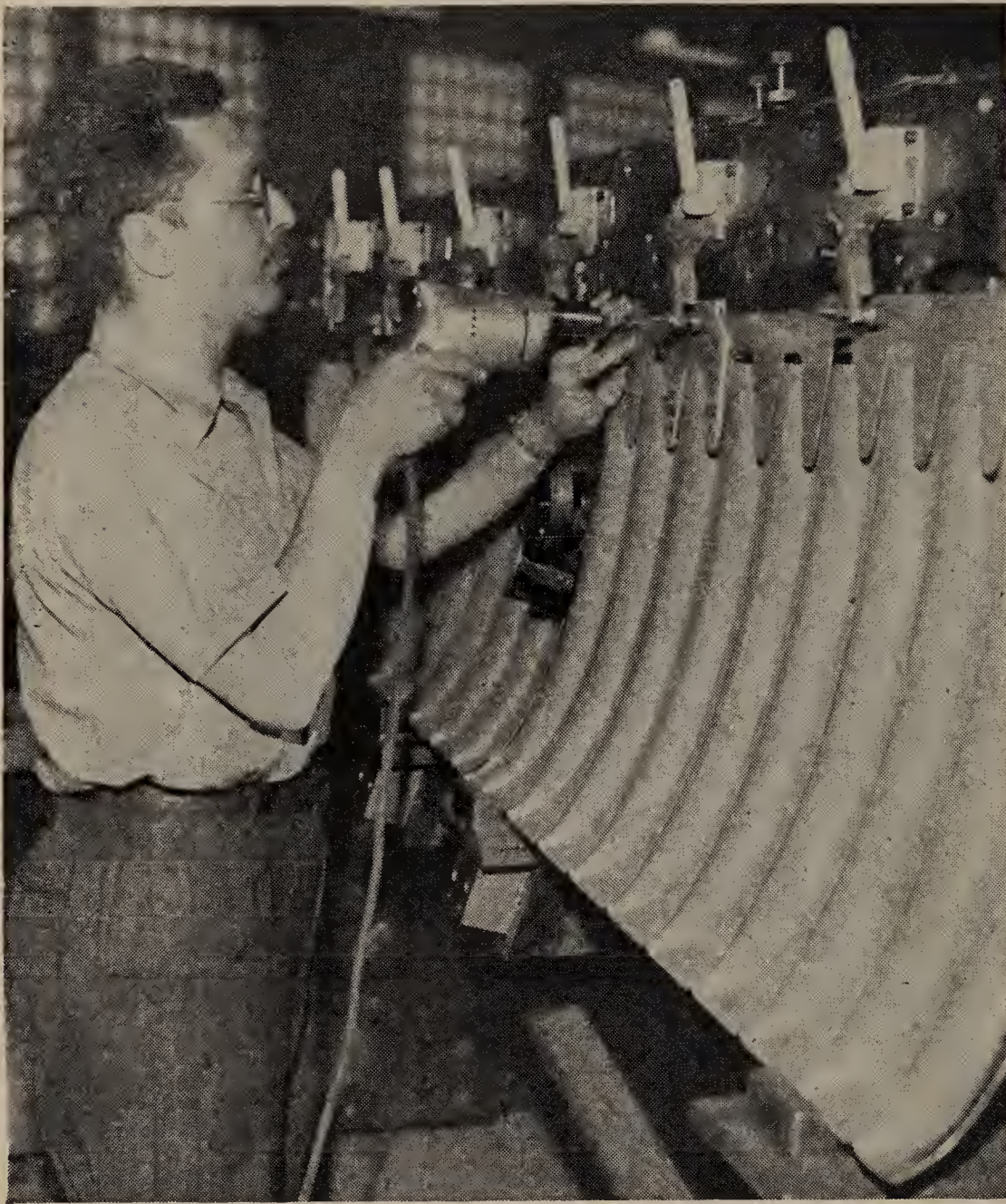
Unlike many of the blind workers now finding opportunity in war plants, La Valle was self-supporting and went into war work to help out on manpower. The task for which he showed ability was drilling precision holes on "Lightning" (P-38) fighter plane assemblies. His accurate pianistic fingers

soon mastered this operation, which is performed with an electric drill, and he also works at burring and sorting rivets.

Coming to California three years ago, Mr. La Valle found professional engagements, and also performed for service men, and for war organizations like the Russian Relief. He has studied at U.C.L.A. And, if the worst came to the worst, he is an expert piano tuner!

The Weber factory has a great variety of war work, with tasks for the blind, the handicapped, and others.

Once upon a time—but it seems so long ago!—the name "Weber" stood for fine show-



Blind worker drilling precision holes.

seven years old. Thus, he had the benefit of blind education, was graduated from the University of Montreal in 1935, and became an entertainer. Several years ago, Septinelli got him a night club engagement in New York. He is a classical as well as a popular pianist, having studied at the Paris Conservatory as well as in Canada, and is a sociable friend-maker, soon at home in any environment.

cases, including those used for frozen foods. But the company was one of the first in this area to take on war contracts, and has gone from one thing to another, according to the needs.

For example, fresh meat and other perishable foods had to be shipped to our troops in the South Seas. For this, Weber built 1,400 large portable refrigerators, in which the food traveled under refrigeration supplied by electric



current. When landed in the tropics, they could be used as commissary refrigerators. If no current was available, then they ran on a built-in gasoline engine.

Funnels for Liberty ships were another product. Formerly, they had been soldered together with many pieces of

than half a ton of things that sailors need adrift at sea.

At the present time, three other sightless workers are employed by this company.

Harry Trusty, who lost his sight in the last war, is a designing engineer, holds numerous patents, and also works on

aircraft assemblies for the P-38. He is the inventor of a pull-away cord used on paratrooper parachutes. And he relies a good deal on "Jeannie", his guide dog, in getting around.

Also working on assemblies is Clyde McKnight, who lost his sight in adult life, and whose story will appear later in *Light*, if not in this issue.

Lawrence Hicks fills orders in the life raft stockroom. He has about eight percent sight, enough to get about, but not for close work. He had the benefit of blind school teaching as a boy, in Arizona, and is a short story writer, especially interested in the Arizona Indians.

In Europe, when they

recruit for various ideologies, they talk about "cells", or little groups of people on their side, formed at the heart of the opposition's side.

In many a war plant, the blind have formed similar "cells", like this group at the Weber plant, and the results are going to be permanent. The only ideology of the blind is, to prove that

(Continued on Page 7)



Clyde McKnight assembles cables for planes.

sheet metal. Weber engineers designed and built a huge press that stamped them out in halves.

Today, besides aircraft assemblies, the plant is building life rafts for sailors who have to abandon ship. They can be dropped overboard without damage, and have nineteen air-tight compartments for food, water, blankets, first aid kits, fishing tackle—more



# FROM IDLENESS TO SELF-SUPPORT

By JOHN MAPPELBECK

FIVE years ago, when he was thirty-two, Clyde McKnight came down with fever. When he recovered, he was totally blind.

That happened in Great Falls, Montana, where there has not been much industrial development. Mining, cattle raising and farming do not offer many opportunities to the blind.

McKnight was an exceptionally intelligent and courageous blinded adult and, with the facilities at hand, made a record in reorienting himself.

For example, he learned to read Braille in two months, and "Pat" Callahan, instructor in the Montana School for the Blind, at Great Falls, declared that this was a shorter time than any in his experience. And it is a remarkable record in the Braille Institute of America's wider experience.

He learned typewriting in a month, and to get around alone with a white cane. But there seemed to be nothing he could do in the way of self-supporting work, so, on a state allowance, he spent his days reading and taking long walks.

He liked to work. Born in Indiana, but growing up in Montana, from the age of five, he had clerked in a store and learned to run a lathe in a machine shop—this in the East. Reduced to reading, of which he had never done very much before his blindness, and to walking, he felt very limited. He wasn't despondent, but he seemed to be laid on the shelf for the next thirty or forty years.

In 1941, "Bob" Atkinson went back to Montana for a visit, and among the people he met was Clyde McKnight. He advised McKnight to come down to Los Angeles where war work was beginning to open up new opportunities

for the blind. Atkinson promised to help him find a place in this more diversified community.

Last winter, McKnight arrived, and within a few weeks had found a job with the ABC Industries, in Long Beach, weaving rugs, after a brief training period. This was piecework, among sighted employees, and he was able to earn twenty-seven dollars a week. It was the first money he had earned in five years, and gave him an entirely new outlook on life.

In rug weaving, the worker has twenty-one colors to keep track of, but generally uses only two or three on a single rug. The weaving is mostly in one basic color, with stripes at each end. A blind worker has to be careful to keep his colors separate, by touch marks, and to follow the pattern, weaving so many rows of this color and then so many of another. McKnight soon developed speed as fast as sighted workers, and that was what filled the pay envelope.

Under the new Barden-LaFollette Act, passed by Congress last summer, many blind persons were being placed in Los Angeles war plants. At the Braille Institute it was felt that McKnight would make an efficient war worker.

So he was given a letter to "Tony" Septinelli, in charge of blind placements and, after an interview, was sent to the Weber Showcase and Fixture Company's factory, on Avalon Blvd. There he quickly qualified for work on airplane wing assemblies, boring precision holes with an electric drill, and also for assembling electric cables that go into the wiring of planes. He lives a half-mile from his work, and not only walks alone, but has learned enough



about Los Angeles street cars and buses to get around wherever he wants to go.

Naturally, he is very happy in this change from idleness to industry and, on the basis of his own experience, feels justified in offering some suggestions for improving the condition of blind persons like himself, in communities where placement work has not been developed as fully as in the war centers.

Even in the small cities and farming states, work might be found for the capable blind, he believes. The town may not have war plants or factories, but it always has local industries—washes its own shirt, bakes its own bread.

In Los Angeles, blind workers have been placed by taking advantage of the Barden-LaFollette Act, which helps finance placements wherever state authorities cooperate. The start is made by selecting a placement specialist who will go around to the factories, shops, stores and other establishments where a blind person might work and personally study all the kinds of work that are being done, and selecting those jobs that are within the capabilities of the blind.

It is necessary to interest employers, and prove that blind men and women can do these kinds of work. Also, to assure them that the blind employee will give them no trouble at all, either in the plant or in going and coming.

It has been a very great advantage,

in Southern California, that this placement specialist is himself totally blind. Mr. Septinelli does not have to theorize or argue with an employer who is willing to try blind employees—if! He does the different kinds of work himself and has had a wide experience of factory operations. The employer sees how a blind man tackles task after task, and proves that many operations not thought of as being within his abilities—even running power machines—are learned, and performed accurately, safely and with speed equal to that of the average sighted worker—often faster.

McKnight's practical experience and observation since coming to California convince him that in his home state of Montana, and right in Great Falls, itself, which he left because of unemployment, are several opportunities for the blind in various industries.

The opportunities in California, McKnight believes, are not due entirely to a greater variety of employment, but can be credited to enterprise in studying those opportunities and convincing employers that the blind are competent workers.

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## FROM NIGHT CLUBS TO WARPLANE WINGS

*(Continued from Page 5)*

they can do regular work for regular wages, and to do it so well that sighted fellow workers will forget they are handicapped.

At the Weber plant, the blind have proved their case.





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## ·~·] INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD [c~·

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*St. Dunstan's for Blinded Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen*, London, England. —During a revival of air raids in this vicinity, a number of St. Dunstaners experienced damage. Mr. and Mrs. H. Palmer suffered the loss of their son, who was home on leave, in the raid that destroyed their home. The home of Sir Ian Fraser, chairman of St. Dunstan's, was burned to the ground. Emerging from the air raid shelter, the family found the house blazing, too late to save it from complete destruction. Blinded officers who were staying with the Frasers helped Lady Fraser rescue a few articles, but little was saved.

\* \* \*

*St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian War-Blinded*, Dehra Dun, United Provinces. —Sir Clutha Mackenzie's report on the first six months' work at this Hostel states, in part:

"At the close of the first six months of active training work, the total number of war-blinded men in India, so far reliably reported, is fifty-three. Of this number, twenty-four have entered here and four left. . . . The fundamental notion in the villages is that a blind man can do nothing. This is a mixture of kindness, callousness and exploitation. There is no unanimous attitude, as in England, that it is the duty of a blind man's family and his community to protect and help him."

The program planned by Sir Clutha is five-pointed: (1) Restoration of confidence and independence. (2) Training men in simple trades for needs of their local villages. (3) Training in

music and recreations. (4) Grants for setting up home industries, for housing, marriage and other needs. (5) Search for men of above average character and ability, with a view toward training them for civilian blind welfare work, or some outstanding occupation.

\* \* \*

*Legislative Committee of California Blind*, Los Angeles, Calif.—Incorporation papers have been received from Sacramento by the Legislative Committee of California Blind. It will have State headquarters in this city. The sponsors point out that California's dependent blind have had no increase in State assistance since 1929. This new organization will work through the State Legislature to secure adequate State recognition of their needs. Its main purpose will be to foster and safeguard legislation to better the welfare of California's 6,000 dependent and unemployable blind.

Two types of membership have been established — regular and associate. Regular membership will include only blind people, and the dues for these will be \$2 a year. Associate memberships will be \$1 a year. Funds so raised will be devoted to educate the public to the plight of the needy blind and to send representatives to the sessions of the Legislature.

Officers are: Frank E. Gardner, Chairman; Kenneth Boston, Vice-Chairman; Robert Gaynor, Treasurer; Fred Diering, Secretary. Headquarters are 1031 So. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 15. Phone Century 2-5834.



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## JUST HUMAN BEINGS AFTER ALL

The average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as *you*. His tastes, ambitions and desires are closely akin to *yours*. The only difference is—he *sees* through the fingers, while you *see* through the eyes.

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VARIOUS fields of activities are now being invaded by the blind workers—men, women and boys who, deprived of physical sight, have found an outlet for their normal desire to support to the utmost their country in its hour of need. Many who formerly sat helplessly by, unwilling though they may have been, are now finding the opportunities of preparing themselves for work heretofore regarded as impossible for them to attempt. They are acquitting themselves with honor at the jobs and positions for which their preparation has fitted them. Many positions are in the field of war production, others are in the nature of professions and careers, emphasizing again that the blind are normal human beings.

\* \* \*

Everyone recognizes the importance of the Red Cross and the part it plays in the war, for it goes where the ordinary individual cannot—to the side of the boys in uniform, wherever they may be, all over the world. Mrs. Elford Eddy of San Francisco was active, at the age of six, in soliciting for the Red Cross, and she has never lost her enthusiasm, even though blindness intervened a few years ago. She believes herself to be the champion doorbell-ringer, for, in spite of her lack of sight, she has continued her solicitations and her work for patriotic and welfare projects. In order to prepare herself even more for those activities, she is now taking a course in lucite, turning out articles made from plastic with the

objective of fitting herself to teach the blind, crafts that aid in rapid readjustment to life and work. However, when a Red Cross drive is launched, Mrs. Elford Eddy goes back to "bell-ringing."

\* \* \*

Among those engaged in war work is young Robert Riley, 21, of Chicago, blind since birth. He is today rated as one of the fastest inspectors of .30 caliber carbines in the Chicago ordinance district. Robert can break down and reassemble a weapon in six minutes, as compared to the nine minutes required by the average inspector who can see. Each weapon has 52 parts. In a demonstration of his ability, Riley took ten carbines apart and from the 520 parts reassembled them into ten new guns. He is a former student of DePaul University but, when the United States entered the war, Robert could not rest until he had fitted himself for some activity whereby he could do something tangible for the war effort.

\* \* \*

Young Edward Motter, who lost his sight at the age of six, is now, at 25, determinedly pursuing his work at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is looking forward to the time when he may take up sociology. He firmly believes that actual experience with blindness is invaluable in the assistance given those just entering it. Edward is far from physically inactive, because of the very sensible encouragement given him by his gym coach some years ago. Observing that the boy was very interested in listening to



the students who were practicing tumblers, backflips and the other things possible to sighted boys, the coach succeeded in convincing him that he could learn them. He did, and in record time he was competing successfully in contests with the other students.

\* \* \*

Also, in Los Angeles, another blind man has overcome his handicap to the degree of being able to improvise and play for the pleasure of others. Allen Spurr has mastered the use of the piano and the violin, as well as the organ. His first professional appearance was at the old Million Dollar Theater in Los Angeles when, in 1921, he played the organ. Since then he has often been in demand for special programs and conventions and, during the period of silent pictures, he furnished the musical accompaniment in many Southland theaters.

\* \* \*

The story of George MacDonald of San Francisco, California, blind bowler, will be of interest to many who have been devotees of the game and know that it is a task for sighted players. He holds the world's record for blind people for a three-game series of 580, an average of 193, and also the world's record for blind people for a single high game, rolling eight straight strikes for game total of 256. In his sixteenth lesson, MacDonald was permitted to throw at pins and amazed spectators by knocking down 635 pins in five games for an average of 127. In his twenty-sixth lesson, he rolled 124-160-161 for an average of 148. Mr. MacDonald has often aided the Red Cross campaign for blood plasma and recently sold \$270,000 of War Bonds in 45 minutes at a bowling center. He feels that he has proved that many

blind men, formerly interested in sport, have the capabilities of re-entering that field, if they will put forth the necessary effort.

\* \* \*

Working side by side in a New York war plant, two blind young workers found romance. Ruth Turner was a musician who played at concerts, a pianist for a jazz orchestra and taught at the Lighthouse Music School. But, when opportunity presented itself, eighteen months ago, she left her music and came to work at the Micamold Radio Corporation, where she met young Herman Miller. Working together, they found they had much in common, and in February of this year the two young people were married. Mrs. Miller continues to work with her husband and will, until the war is over. She admits that at times splitting mica becomes monotonous but, after all, "a perfect piece of mica is like a perfect piece of music—lovely and smooth, no cracks. It's beautiful!"

\* \* \*

Over in war-torn London, England, two young people, blinded in the war, are reported continuing with their music. Miss Beryl Sleigh, blinded in a London blitz, held a recent recital at Hereford Cathedral. Possessing a voice of real beauty, Miss Sleigh's program of classical and opera selections was well received.

Then there is blind James Ellis, editor of *The Tembani Times*, the South African edition of *The St. Dunstan's Review*, an ex-serviceman in the present war. Mr. Ellis is trumpeter in St. Dunstan's Band, in spite of the fact that he has lost one hand and two fingers of the other. His dexterity in picking up where he left off, with the added handicaps, is a constant source of amazement to his audiences.



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# L I G H T

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Volume XVI

July, 1944

Number 4

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J. ROBERT ATKINSON, Editor

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*Established 1931*

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To keep the public informed of the needs and resourcefulness of the physically blind, and how to help them constructively in their valiant struggle to endure blindness and to overcome its handicap to the extent of self-support, thereby proving "a man's a man for a' that".

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## EDITORIALS

### *Good Will on a Business Basis*

Contacts of value in acquainting men in key spots with problems and improvements in Braille and Moon printing and in furthering the welfare of the blind crowded seventeen busy days spent in the East and Middle West in June by our Managing Director, J. Robert Atkinson.

Accompanied by Mrs. Atkinson, he left Los Angeles for New York City on Wednesday, May 31, primarily to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, which he, as President, called.

Between Saturday, June 3, date of their arrival, and Tuesday, June 20, when they left Chicago for the West, Mr. Atkinson had a total of nineteen interviews in New York City, Boston, Washington, D. C., Chicago and near-by points. He spoke extemporaneously at the annual meeting of the Greater New York Council of Welfare Agencies for the Blind and again, with but brief notice, at a meeting and banquet of the Brooklyn Industrial Home for the Blind. Presentation of the Army-Navy "E" award occasioned this latter event.

While still in New York, the Atkinsons

enjoyed visits with Mr. Walter G. Holmes, Managing Editor of the *Mattilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind*, and Mr. M. C. Migel, President of the American Foundation for the Blind. While these visits were, for the most part, social, yet problems related to the welfare of the blind were discussed freely.

Of particular importance among the Managing Director's interviews were several with officials of the Books for the Adult Blind Division of The Library of Congress, in the Nation's capital. These officials included E. F. Rogers, Acting Director, Books for the Adult Blind; Mr. Clapp and Dr. Evans, administrative assistants to the Librarian. This division is charged with the administration of an annual Federal appropriation of \$100,000 for the purpose of furnishing literature both in Braille and Moon type free to the Nation's blind. Four Braille presses throughout the Nation, including our own, compete in the printing of this literature. It is circulated free to the blind through twenty-six libraries, of which the Braille Institute is one.

During this interview, Mr. Atkinson stressed the need for the publication of books in the Grade One and a Half code of Braille. To date, the policy of The Library of Congress has been to restrict the Federal appropriation to the use of Grade Two, a more highly contracted code. It is conservatively estimated that by far the greater number of Braille readers in the United States do not read Grade Two. For this reason, our Managing Director takes the position that the policy of limiting the appropriation to Grade Two is discriminatory, to say the least, against the greater number of Braille readers, who have a right to benefit by the appropriation.



In this connection, Mr. Atkinson, during the interview, was requested to supply the division with a copy of a factual document he had prepared on the subject, entitled "Relative Value of Standard English Braille, Grade Two and Its Simplified Code, Known as Grade One and a Half" which he promised to do.

As a result of this particular interview, the Managing Director feels that due consideration will be given by the Library officials in favor of some literature in Grade One and a Half.

These interviews at The Library of Congress afforded Mr. Atkinson an opportunity to demonstrate the Braille Institute's portable writer, not only to the officials mentioned above, but also to Miss Nichols, in charge of the Circulation Department of Books for the Adult Blind, and Miss Rohrback, head of the Hand Transcribing Division. They were very favorably impressed.

It is expected that the first allotment of one hundred Braille writers may be ready for distribution by the end of the calendar year. Priorities under which to obtain aluminum and other metal for their manufacture have delayed production for more than a year.

A new size for books in Moon type, uniform with the standard size used for Braille books, was recommended by Mr. Atkinson during the interview. Henry Drummond's "The Greatest Thing in the World", recently printed in Moon type by the Braille Institute, was presented as a sample. The agreement was unanimous that the new size had many advantages over that used at present, which follows the pattern used by the English.

Profitable from many points of view was a two-hour luncheon interview at which the Atkinsons were hosts to Dr. Albert E. Croft of the Federal Veterans'

Administration, during their stay in Washington, D. C. Dr. Croft, only recently transferred to that position, frankly discussed his plans for the care, training and after-care of the Nation's blinded veterans. That work being new to him, he was most appreciative of the recommendations which Mr. Atkinson made to him at his request.

Post-war problems in blind welfare and matters pertaining to Mr. Atkinson's office as President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind were discussed to mutual advantage, in an interview with Joseph F. Clunk, Chief, Services for the Blind, Federal Security Agency, U. S. Office of Education, and L. Q. Lewis, Executive Director of the National Society for the Blind, in Washington, D. C.

In Boston, after completing his business in New York, and before his stay in Washington, our Managing Director held several important interviews with officials at Christian Science headquarters. Among these was an engagement with the Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy, the Trustees of the Christian Science Publishing Society and the Society's business manager. All these appointments had to do with the printing of their literature in Braille on the Braille Institute's presses, under contract.

In some of the interviews there, as in those at The Library of Congress, the relative merits of Grade One and a Half and Grade Two Braille were discussed. However, at Christian Science headquarters, the policy of using Grade One and a Half exclusively for their literature contrasts interestingly at least with the exclusive use of Grade Two by The Library of Congress.

At Chicago, on the way home, the Managing Director kept a business appointment with the Rev. O. C. Schroe-



der, Manager and Librarian of the Lutheran Library for the Blind and editor of Lutheran publications in Braille and Moon types. They discussed, to mutual advantage, the Braille Institute's relations with the Lutheran church as printers of that denomination's literature, under contract.

Delayed in Chicago a day by the necessity to wait for a compartment on the Santa Fe "Chief", the Atkinsons made profitable use of the time by keeping an engagement with Edward M. Peterson of the Chicago Public Library's Department for the Blind, and an appointment with Alfred Allen, Secretary General, American Association of Workers for the Blind.

In Brookline, Massachusetts, they visited the Longyear Foundation, renewing friendships and discussing matters relating to Mr. and Mrs. Longyear's generosity in making possible the founding of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., with a \$25,000 gift in 1919. Although Mr. and Mrs. Longyear have long since passed away, the Braille Institute still receives, through the Longyear Foundation, an annual contribution to furnish Braille Bibles free to the blind.

The trip ended on the afternoon of Thursday, June 22, with Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson's return to their home in Los Angeles. They stepped off the train with a distinct feeling of satisfaction, convinced that, all in all, the journey had been well worth the time and money expended.

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### *Blind Workers Merit Army-Navy "E" Pennant*

Congratulations to the genial manager of the Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, New York, Peter J. Salmon, and to his fine staff and force

of blinded and sighted employees! For the second time they have received the award of the Army-Navy "E" pennant in recognition of their increased production, low absenteeism, good labor relations and intelligent management.

On June 6, at the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn, the Army and Navy showed their recognition and appreciation of the Home's continued fine work by presenting to its president, Louis C. Wills, an exact replica of the original "E" pennant, except that it shows the addition of a gold star, signifying the renewal of the "E" award for another six months.

Commander William J. Strachan, of the U. S. Navy, presented the Star pennant and Colonel George Spann, officer in charge of the Jersey City Quartermaster's Depot, presented the "E" pennant to the thirteen blind employees who have joined the Home's working ranks since the original award was made on December 1.

The broad foundation for that form of service was laid half a century ago when in 1893 Eben P. Morford, a blind man, 27 years old, established in Brooklyn the first workshop for the blind in New York State.

The workshop began in a small three-story frame structure.

Today it occupies six modern buildings, employs 160 workers in seven different industries, and operates social services for 900 other blind persons.

Among the speakers on this occasion were Dr. Robert B. Irwin, executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, and J. Robert Atkinson, president of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, and vice-president and managing director of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., Los Angeles, California.



world what they and their welfare workers have been vainly preaching until now to employers with dull ears reluctant to admit that there is anything the blind can do towards supporting themselves. It is a chance, not charity, the employable blind have been asking for through the years; a chance to make good, to earn an independent livelihood and thereby maintain their own self-respect.

Yes, there's "enduring vivacity", dauntless courage, resourcefulness, and rare wit among many of the physically blind. It is fortunate that they can see the humorous side of some situations affecting their own outlook and environment. The following incident, which is only one of many similar, sustains this statement.

Some years ago an effort was made to coin a word as a substitute for the word blind, or blindness. The blind themselves were asked to make suggestions. One man responded:

"When the cow loses her horns she is said to be dehorned. When a man loses his head, physically, decapitated is the word. When I lost my sight, I was de-lighted. Then why not," he added, "coin the word *delighted* as a substitute for the word blind?"

Though perhaps nothing more than a pun when made years ago, the suggested coinage seems now to be realistically applicable. Without exception, hundreds of the de-lighted men and women in war work today are truly delighted with their lucrative jobs. Proudly, and rightly so, they hold their heads high as they carry their pay envelopes home at the end of a week's grind, filled with earnings all the way up from \$30 to \$50 a week. May post-war conditions deal with them as kindly!

## *I Wish They Wouldn't Do It*

By Sgt. Albert A. Schmid

(Blinded by a Japanese grenade on Guadalcanal after killing 200 Japs, Holder of the Navy Cross. His story was told in *Life* magazine and in the book "Al Schmid—Marine", by Roger Butterfield. To the editor of *Light*, this story shows clearly why the Allies will win the War.)

Sometimes when I'm walking along the street with somebody at my arm I hear people saying things like "Isn't it too bad" and "The poor fellow"—things like that. I know they mean to be sympathetic, but I wish they wouldn't do it. I know quite a few fellows who are back from the war, shot up like me, only in different places, and we're all alike in one respect. We don't like to be pitied.

Every once in a while I'll meet a guy who takes hold of my hand and says "Put 'er there Smitty, you're looking swell!" and I can tell by his voice he really means it. That's the kind of thing we like to hear.

Sure, we look different than we did, and we can't do things the way we did. But there's a lot we can do. The other day, I went out in the country, above Philadelphia, and went coon-hunting with some of my old buddies there. We took the dogs and some guns, and cut right across the fields and through the woods; climbed over fences and waded in the creeks; it felt good to have some dirt under my feet again. Somebody had to help me, but they're the kind of people who can do it without making me feel it. I figured I hadn't lost everything when I could go out like that.

I spend a lot of time up on a platform, war bond rallies and war plants and meetings of different kinds, telling people what it's like out there where



Among the guests were Borough President Cashmore and Red Barber, sports commentator, who addressed the meeting, informally.

The value of the Army-Navy "E" Flag, as an award for outstanding production, was suggested by Captain Lewis L. Strauss, USNR, to the then Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, in 1941. It was the alternative to blacklisting plants which fell down on their commitments. The idea at first was to use it in the Navy Bureau of Ordnance; then its use was extended to make it a general Navy award, and finally the Army-Navy "E". Its value in building morale and speeding production has been incalculable.

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### *Silver Anniversary*

Established 1919, incorporated 1929, under the laws of the great state of California, as a non-profit, non-sectarian, nation-wide institution devoted to the social and economic welfare of the blind, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., approaches its 25th birthday, on September 30 next.

In commemoration of this achievement a jubilee celebration is being planned in the form of an Open House Reception, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 28, 29 and 30, at the Institute's headquarters, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles 27, California. This will be climaxed by a banquet Saturday evening. The beautiful Banquet Hall of The Los Angeles Breakfast Club has been engaged for the occasion, during which an interesting and entertaining program will be staged. Members of and contributors to the Braille Institute, *Light* readers, and the public at large are cordially invited to attend. Further particulars will be published later in the Braille Institute

Bulletin, and mailed to all of its friends. Meanwhile, mark these dates on your calendar for this is an event no one interested in welfare service for the blind can afford to miss.

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### *DE-lighted*

We agree with the late Rev. De Witt Talmage, D.D., that "there are wit, humor, and enduring vivacity among God's people."

The same and much more can be said truly of many who are deprived of physical sight. Of necessity they must develop the latent spiritual faculties or mental endowments richly and impersonally bestowed upon all men by their Creator.

Constantly through the years, *Light* has presented to its readers factual stories and actual incidents which prove beyond cavil that the physically blind, under favorable circumstances, are entitled to places in our industrial system, our economic, journalistic, and dramatic life. We have shown unreservedly that they are both resourceful and self-reliant and that they have already made good in the arts, professions, the trades, and industry in general. When given a reasonable chance we have shown their ability to compete productively in nearly every field of human endeavor and enterprise.

Indeed, here and there throughout this Nation, east, west, north, and south, blind men and women of all ages are doing their part, side by side with sighted workers, in keeping the implements of war rolling off the production lines. Their names are legion. It is most unfortunate, however, that it took a vicious, global war to bring this about — to give these courageous, resourceful, handicapped men and women an opportunity to prove to the



the Marines are. I'd be there myself if I could still shoot, but I can't, so I'm doing the best I can for the duration. But I have to admit I'm getting some fun out of life, too—I like to go down to the barber shop in the afternoon and shoot the breeze, or dig in the Victory Garden with my wife telling me where to stick my shovel, or go to a night club in New York and hear Jimmie Durante. I've learned to play the accordion and type my own letters. I'm even helping around the house a little since I got married. I'm not through with regular living by a long shot, and neither are the other boys. Just let people remember that, and forget the pity.

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## On Our Way

Permanent headquarters for the Braille Institute of America, Inc., were made secure recently through negotiations terminated by its Board of Trustees, for ample ground on which to provide adequate housing facilities for the Institute's expanding welfare activities.

Formerly, the ground purchased for a cash consideration was owned by the Board of Regents of U.C.L.A. Later, when the University moved to Westwood the land was transferred to the State Land Department from which it was purchased.

Including the property at 741' North Vermont Avenue, headquarters of the Braille Institute for seventeen years, the acquisition of this vacant ground provides 370 feet frontage on Vermont Avenue, extending north to Monroe St.

With the Los Angeles City College occupying the University's abandoned buildings and campus in the block north of Monroe Street, and Chapman Christian College directly across the

avenue to the east, the selection of this site as permanent headquarters for the Institute, locates it in a cultural center quite in keeping with its high ideals for the social, cultural and economic welfare for the physically blind.

Consummated within two months of the Institute's 25th anniversary, the deal marks another outstanding mile-post in a steady progressive, constructive program for the rehabilitation and betterment of the adult blind in every walk of life.

Founded in 1919, incorporated in 1929 under the laws of California, on the very eve of the greatest world depression within the memory of living economists the Institute has weathered the storm very well indeed. At least this is the opinion of its Board of Trustees and administrative staff.

Today the Braille Institute is the only one of its kind west of the Mississippi River, adequately equipped and efficiently organized to cope intelligently with all social and economic problems confronting those who lose their physical sight in adulthood.

At present, and probably not until after the duration, building plans are merely in the offing.

Tentatively, however, the building expansion, by units, will include housing facilities for the following welfare activities:

1. Space for our free lending library, to include home teaching rooms and individual reading and study rooms.
2. Recreation center, to provide gymnasium, kitchen facilities, individual studios and class rooms.
3. Administrative and welfare offices.
4. Industrial center, to provide engineering facilities and machine shop space for repair of radios and talking



book machines, Braille writers etc., with additional space for research and for manufacturing appliances for the blind; small industrial training quarters incidental and necessary to placement work.

5. Publishing house, to include ample space for the printing of magazines and books in Braille and Moon type, sound recording studios for the production of literature on long playing phonograph records styled, "talking books."

We feel sure that our members, contributors, friends, and readers of *Light* will rejoice with us over the achievements thus far, and wait patiently for the fulfillment of these plans.

Modestly, and gratefully, we're on the way! For at least twenty years this way has been an uphill struggle. That's why we're looking forward with no little pride to our Silver Anniversary to be celebrated the last week in September, announced elsewhere in this issue.

"Permanent quarters within a quarter-century" might well be our slogan for that auspicious occasion.

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### Watch for "AURORA"

Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles 27, California

Dear Mr. Atkinson & Trustees:

Naturally, I was both surprised and gratified when receiving the April issue of *Light* to notice that you had devoted a full page to my acceptance of your long-proffered chairmanship of the Advisory Board. I was surprised because, as you know, during the four years of my voluntary service in originating and promoting the Piggy Bank project as a means of raising funds for your splendid welfare service, I have worked quietly, preferring no personal

publicity other than what you might feel was helpful to the project itself.

Our slogan, "A Penny a Day Drives Darkness Away," has been fully tested and not found wanting. Both the moral and financial response thereto has been thrilling, not to mention the added service it has furnished the blind through your many, commendable welfare activities.

My experience and observation now convinces me that many persons are confused with respect to the name "Braille"; what it is; what it does; in realizing its great import in the rehabilitation of those handicapped by blindness.

Five years ago, before I was similarly handicapped, I thought "Braille" was a four-year Collegiate Course, never knowing that your Institute for "Welfare of the Blind" was also an easement of, or solution to, many exigencies imposed by reason of the loss of sight.

I have, within this time, found that the masses are most cooperative with the blinded—that "the blind" accept the tragic handicap philosophically and meekly! They know (but never complain) that a vast public, out in the sun and light, with eyes to read as they go, to negotiate the curbings up and down without stumbling and to avoid numerous pitfalls in their path, cannot comprehend their predicament, nor appreciate the problems they, themselves, have to solve.

However, this public most conscious of high rentals and increased living costs, are not yet fully aware that City, County, State and Federal assistance to the blind is no longer commensurate with their needs. Of all this I am very conscious, and determined, if possible, to improve this condition.



I have accepted, at least for the balance of the year 1944, the Chairmanship of your Advisory Board. I am presenting to you and the Braille Institute of America, Inc., in the middle of August 1944, at the Farmers Market, 3rd & Fairfax, Los Angeles, a statue of a Pig, named "AURORA" (sculptured by Harold and Evelyn Gebhardt) — (fired by Gladding, McBean)—placed upon a weathered wooden pedestal, for "Collective Giving" of coins. And already, before its completion, copyright or installation the idea has taken a fast hold with suggestions of "AURORAS" in many other places.

I accepted this voluntary chairmanship conditionally — that it should be *National*, rather than *Local*. I feel that now we could establish a query in every town in the Nation, "Are you a Brailist?" meaning by this, do you have a Pig Bank under the banner, "A Penny a Day Drives Darkness Away?"

Further, I wish all readers of *Light* magazine who have Piggie Banks, filled or unfilled, would return them to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles 27, to be branded with the Institute's registered emblem. From now on all Pig Banks distributed will be of-

ficially identified in this way, in order that the project may be protected and our Pig bankers assured that their deposited coins will find their way into the Braille Institute's Welfare Fund, 100%.

If more convenient, these Piggie Banks may be returned for branding to the Information Silo at the Farmers Market on the day set for the unveiling of "AURORA". This unveiling will be about the middle of August. The exact date will be announced in the daily Farmers Market column of the *Los Angeles Times*. (If sentimental about your Piggie, please attach a card and your "AURORA" will be returned to you after she is branded.)

In conclusion, I wish I could find words to convey my appreciation of the confidence you have expressed in my endeavor on behalf of your Welfare Work, and I can only hope that in this year 1944 I have launched another idea that may be beneficial to all handicapped by blindness. We now realize the blind wounded service men and women are returning home and we must act with all speed for their necessities and comforts.

Very sincerely yours,

Edith Wakeman-Hughes.







"SANDY"

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From Los Angeles turn left off Jefferson at Playa Street

*Owned and Operated by*

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HORSES boarded by week or month; groomed daily; the best of care and feed. With 50 years' constant experience in the livery business both in the Middle West and California, Glen Vaughn knows how to feed, groom, and treat horses.



"LADY IN RED"

### ADVERTISEMENTS

Business firms are urged to use this section of *Light*. Rates furnished on request. All revenue derived used to better the conditions of the blind.

*Light* circulates to thousands of potential commodity buyers and philanthropists in southern California and the Nation.

**WE NEED . . .**

**MAINTENANCE MECHANIC & MACHINIST**

90c an hour. Easy and interesting work. Permanent job to right man.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

With "Re-write" experience. Male or Female.

Forty hours, 5-day week.

*Apply in person or by mail*

**BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.**

741 NORTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES 27, CALIFORNIA.

Telephone—OLympia 1121.



# **OPPORTUNITY. . .**

Readers of *Light* are cordially invited to investigate the worthiness of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., as beneficiary in their wills, insurance policies or war bonds.

Under its charter as a non-profit, non-sectarian California corporation, the Braille Institute is empowered to receive and accept for the purposes of the corporation, gifts, donations, bequests, and devices of money and property, *and to perform any conditions which may be stipulated by the donors.*

It may be said that the "purposes of the corporation" are broad enough in scope to meet the social and economic needs of persons blinded in adulthood in every walk of life. For this reason and because the administrative staff of the Braille Institute is efficiently organized and adequately equipped to cope intelligently with the needs of the blind and to determine where and how blind welfare service can best be applied for the amelioration of physical blindness, the Trustees prefer that bequests should not be limited or restricted for specific purposes. However, donors may feel assured that if their bequests are particularly designated, the instruction of the donors will be observed to the letter.



## FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., of Los Angeles, California,

(Insert description of money or property given)

for the general uses and purposes of the corporation.

## FORM OF CODICIL TO WILL

When a will has been made and it is afterwards desired to make a gift or bequest to the Braille Institute of America, Inc., it will be sufficient if the form below is filled in, and signed by the testator in the presence of two witnesses, who also, at the request of the testator, sign as witnesses in the presence of the testator and in the presence of each other. This codicil should then be carefully attached to the existing will.

## CODICIL

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of.....

....., dated.....  
(Name in Full) (Date of Will)

I give, devise and bequeath to the BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., of Los Angeles, California, for the general purposes of the corporation, the sum of

..... (or a description of any property, real or personal.)

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this.....day of

....., 19.....

.....  
(Signature of Testator)

Signed by the testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will dated.....  
testatrix her

.....in the presence of us, both present at the same  
(Date of Will)

time, who at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto set our names as witnesses.

.....residing at.....

.....residing at.....



*"A Penny a Day Drives Darkness Away"*



BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

741 North Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 27, California

*I* WISH TO PARTICIPATE  
in your blind welfare service by uniting with Mrs. Edith Wake-  
man Hughes under the banner, "a penny a day drives darkness  
away." If you will send me one of the pig banks, I shall fill it  
and return it to you, or its equivalent in cash.

Name .....

Address .....

• • • WATCH FOR "*Aurora*" • • •











